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THE TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

by Andrew Strom

How to actually experience 'personal Revival'

We have discussed many aspects of "Reformation" and structural change needed in the church. But the two secrets of Revival that we are about to look at, have very little to do with these kinds of "outward" things.

Merely changing the structures will achieve very little in itself. It is like re-arranging the "boxes" or the outward shell. It is like trying to form a new wineskin but forgetting about the 'new wine' that goes in it.

So it is high time that we talked about obtaining this NEW WINE from God. That is what true Revival is all about.

Some of you will have read about these "2 Secrets" before. But please read this article anyway, because I am going to be applying them in a way that goes beyond what I have written in the past.

The two key questions that we will be covering in this article are: (1) How do I get into a state of "Personal Revival", and (2) How do we get from there into a state of "Corporate Revival"?

As many of you know, I have been studying Revival history now for many years. I have looked at Revivals from recent decades and Revivals from centuries ago. And after all this research, I have found that the secrets of Revival seem to boil down to 2 main things.

These things are:

(1) Extremely deep REPENTANCE, and (2) A kind of "wrestling, agonizing" prayer - crying to God for the "OUTPOURING" of His Holy Spirit.

These two things have been the secrets to countless Revivals down the ages - and I fully believe they will be so again. That is why there is NOTHING more important that we need to be discussing right now.

ACTUALLY "EXPERIENCING" DEEP REPENTANCE

You have probably heard of Frank Bartleman's statement from the 'Azusa Street' Revival: "I received from God early in 1905 the following keynote to revival: 'The DEPTH of revival will be determined exactly by the DEPTH of the spirit of REPENTANCE.' And this will obtain for all people, at all times."

I can affirm that all history backs up Bartleman's words here. And I can also tell you that if you want to get into a truly "Revived"state - or a state of "personal Revival" - then DEEP Repentance is one of the keys.

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

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MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

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What we often find is that Christians have turned away from a lot of the "obvious" sins, such as lying, stealing, adultery, etc. But there are other things that they are aware of in their lives that are not right. It is dealing with these "other things" that can be the key to a far greater intimacy with God.

Do you know that God HATES all sin, and that when you get close to God then your heart will HATE sin just like He does?

So let's get "practical" with this. Here is what you need to do to deal with these things at a DEEP level: Firstly, get off by yourself with God. You need a couple of hours or more in a quiet place alone with Him. Secondly, ask and plead with God to "shine His light" into your heart. -To show you any unclean thing, whether it be unforgiveness, lust, speaking against people behind their backs, holding grudges, little "white" lies, etc. Ask God to show you how HE FEELS about sin. Ask Him to shine His light deep inside you and show you things that you need to confess and renounce and ask forgiveness for. In some cases, you may need to go to a brother or sister and apologize to them or even make restitution. Make sure the repentance goes to the DEEPEST LEVEL possible. Confess each sin specifically to God, turn from it and ask God to cleanse you. With a lot of people it is these so-called "MINOR" SINS that are holding them back.

Here is one last quote on this subject from Evan Roberts of the Welsh Revival: "First, is there any sin in your past with which you have not honestly dealt,- not confessed to God? On your knees at once. Your past must be put away and cleansed. Second, is there anything in your life that is doubtful - anything you cannot decide whether it is good or evil? Away with it. There must not be a trace of a cloud between you and God. Have you forgiven everybody - EVERYBODY? If not, don't expect forgiveness for your sins..."

This issue of TRULY forgiving those who have hurt you can be a big one. It is important to be BRUTALLY HONEST with yourself. Is there still "bad feeling" deep inside you towards certain people? Is there a trace of bitterness when you speak about that person? We all need to get before God and repent and RENOUNCE all unforgiveness from deep within us. Going through this whole "deep repentance" process is the first key to personal Revival.

KEY # 2 - "WRESTLING, AGONIZING" PRAYER

When you study history, you soon notice that there is a specific type of prayer that you see in Revivals again and again. When I first began to study past moves of God I quickly realized this, because I came across it so often. This special type of prayer is an ESSENTIAL ingredient of Revival.

The old Revivalists used to speak of having the "spirit of prayer". They spoke of weeping, agonizing, pleading, wrestling, 'travailing' in prayer. The whole reason that these Revival preachers were so anointed and saturated with the presence of God was because they had truly broken through, right into His very throneroom in prayer, and had spent much time communing with Him there. This type of praying has always been one of the most important keys to true Revival.

Charles Finney said, "Unless I had the spirit of prayer I could do nothing... I found myself unable to preach with power and efficiency, or to win souls..." George Whitefield said: "Whole days and WEEKS have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer..." Frank Bartleman wrote: "At night I could scarcely sleep for the spirit of prayer... Prayer literally consumed me." And D.M. McIntyre wrote: "Before the great revival in Gallneukirchen broke out, Martin Boos spent hours and days and often nights in lonely agonies of intercession. Afterwards, when he preached, his words were as flame, and the hearts of the people as grass."

As history shows, the church can only expect true Revival when a remnant of God's people get DESPERATE - desperate about the backslidden state of the church, desperate about the lukewarmness within them and all around them, desperate about sin and compromise, desperate about the fact that God is not GLORIFIED, that He is not truly LORD of His church, that His words are mocked and largely seen as irrelevant by a dying world. Revival will come when God's people truly humble themselves, when they replace their "positive imaging" ('Rise up, you people of power", etc), with the reality of James' lament: "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and

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HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up" (Ja 4:9-10).

As was said of Evan Roberts: "He would break down, crying bitterly for God to bend them, in an agony of prayer, the tears coursing down his cheeks, with his whole frame writhing." And John Wesley asked: "Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down." Brothers, sisters, we need to get DESPERATE in our praying!

HOW TO "WRESTLE" IN PRAYER

Now, it is very important to realize that this type of prayer is not just for "special" people or leaders. It is absolutely one of the keys to "personal Revival" for every one of us. The Bible makes it very clear that the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man" is available to us all.

And history shows that "wrestling Revival prayer" can actually be TAUGHT to Christians. This comes through loud and clear in the book 'Anointed for Burial', which is Todd and DeAnn Burke's account of the mighty Revival in Cambodia in the 1970's. It occurred when God had already been moving there for some time. Todd wrote: "Referring to Genesis 32, I told them how Jacob WRESTLED with the Lord until He blessed him. 'If we expect power and blessing from the Lord, we are going to have to be willing to wrestle with Him in prayer and fasting, in self-denial, in taking up our cross,' I said. Then I shared with them from a devotional book by Hudson Taylor, "An easy-going, non-self-denying life will never be one of power." With that, everyone began to wrestle in prayer, and before long, the blessing came."

When these people broke up into prayer groups and began to "wrestle" with God in prayer as Todd had taught them, the result was actual "OUTPOURINGS" of the Holy Spirit. (ie. The Holy Spirit descending upon whole groups of Christians just like in Acts, with incredibly powerful results). It was an amazing time.

Notice that these Christians were actually TAUGHT to "wrestle" with God in this way. And they simply went and did it!

Early in the 1904 Welsh Revival, Evan Roberts taught the children of Moriah to pray this simple prayer: "Send the Spirit to Moriah for Jesus Christ's sake." Later, he developed this same concept for his general meetings. -Because it was vital that people plead with God to "send His Spirit" down upon them.

After all, this is exactly what Pentecost was all about. It was the 120 in the upper room, crying out to God for ten days, and then God "sending His Spirit" like a mighty rushing wind, and filling them to overflowing. In the past 50 years, there have been many powerful Revivals in which God outpoured His Spirit in a similar way. When God "outpours" His Spirit like this, it is far more than a person simply being baptized in the Spirit. -It is a general "outpouring".

In fact, an "Outpouring of the Holy Spirit" is the essence of what Revival truly is. And just like Pentecost, the result is that many become FILLED with the Holy Spirit, and many others become greatly CONVICTED of their sin. True Revival is the Glory of God coming down. It is His Spirit being "POURED OUT" in a specific place or upon a specific people. We need to 'wrestle' with God to see such an outpouring occur in our day.

Now, before you can 'wrestle' with God in prayer, here is what you need to do:

- Become DESPERATE to see God GLORIFIED in the earth;
- Cleanse your "hands" and your "heart" so that you can truly enter into the throneroom of God;
- Plead with God to outpour His "spirit of prayer" upon you;
- Nurture His "fire" in your heart, so that you can 'agonize' in prayer before Him.
- When you do pray, be very SPECIFIC in 'wrestling' with God to outpour His Spirit upon YOURSELF or upon a specific group. -We all need this fresh infilling.

If you can do these simple things, then TODAY is the day when you can begin to "wrestle" with God in prayer. Do not delay. This could be the key to seeing you transformed by "personal Revival"

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and coming into a far deeper communion with God.

IN SUMMARY:

Having studied Revivals now for over 20 years, I am convinced that the road to "personal Revival" is really the same as the road to 'corporate Revival'. The major keys have always been "deep repentance" and 'agonizing' prayer.

Our motives for seeking God must never be selfish ones. We should be seeking Him for His own sake, not for what He can "do for us". It is to see HIM GLORIFIED that we ask these things.

So, my friends, all I can do is urge you to get into a quiet place and give yourself to heart-searching repentance and "agonizing" prayer until you see a massive "BREAKTHROUGH" in your Christian walk. We all need to be filled with His Spirit again and again. Since I was 17 years old, I would attribute almost every spiritual breakthrough in my life to these two 'Revival' secrets. They have truly revolutionized my life.

So what about "Corporate" Revival - where God's Spirit is poured out upon whole communities and cities? Well, what God will often do is what He did at Pentecost. -He will take His "Revived" ones and use them to bring Revival to others. In other words, if God can find a GROUP of people who have gone through "personal Revival", then He can use them to speak Truth and carry His anointing into whole areas. -And to PRAY for further outpourings.

So what does God need to find in the earth today? Simply GROUPS of "Revived" Christians who can begin to preach repentance and pray for God's Spirit to be outpoured. It all starts with people who have been "Revived".

As A.T. Pierson wrote, "From the day of Pentecost, there has been not one great spiritual awakening in any land which has not begun in a union of prayer, though only among two or three; no such outward, upward movement has continued after such prayer meetings declined."

If you are someone who decides to ACT on what you have read today, then please write to me and let me know the results, my friends? I know that these truths actually WORK in the real world because I have experienced them myself. I pray that they will truly revolutionize many lives.

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"THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT"

by Andrew Strom

Practical tips for the End-time church

Some people say that knowing Scripture is the only real key to discernment that we need. And yes - Scripture is very important - especially in exposing false doctrine. But it is not only doctrines or teachings that are the greatest danger today. It is just as likely to be false 'anointings' or spirits - perhaps even "lying signs and wonders". nd we may need more than just a good understanding of Scripture to spot these things. Remember, a lot of the people caught up in the "manifestations mania" that we described in the last chapter actually know their Bible quite well. And yet they could still be deceived. So what are the things that can help us avoid deception in similar situations?

Some of the most basic keys to discernment that God has shown me are as follows:

1. Know your HOLY GOD intimately. (When you have seen His glory, His holiness and His love - by drawing close to Him in prayer - then you can usually see through any counterfeits because you know the "real thing" so well).
2. Know your Bible. It is very important to be able to spot teachings that are either extra-biblical or directly opposed to what the Scriptures teach. However, it is important to remember that the Scribes and Pharisees were extrememly learned in the Scriptures and yet they missed the very Messiah that was prophesied! So knowing the Bible is important - especially for doctrinal issues - but we need to be able to "discern the spirits" also.
3. Be a "lover of truth". This is very crucial. Are you someone who will actually stand up for Truth - even against the crowd? Or do you remain silent even when you are convinced something is very wrong?
4. Purity of heart and Humility. Many deceptions only appeal to us because there is something inside us that "wants" to believe them. They are seductive because of darkness and wrong motives in our own lives. We must search our hearts

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and root these out.

5. The 'inner witness' of the Holy Spirit. We must learn to never over-ride this "still small voice", as it will save us from deception again and again. (More on this below).

Did you know that even an unbeliever can often spot a con-man or a snake-oil salesman? They get a kind-of "gut feeling" about such things. And they are often right! In fact, they are often less gullible than the Christians! (Because we are told in the church- "Do not judge", 'Touch not the Lord's anointed', "You have a critical spirit if you do not join in", etc, etc. This is the very reason why Christians are often the most gullible and easily deceived). We need to realize that the Bible says to "test the spirits" and warns very strongly that the Last Days will be a time of "seducing spirits" and great deception. So how can we become more alert to these things?

I believe that God has placed within every human being at least a measure of an inner "warning system" to protect us from being easily deceived - just as He has given us all a conscience. It is something that He has built into every one of us, in His mercy. (I guess a lot of it is simply 'common sense'). However, Christians should have an even greater advantage in this area, because we have the "inner witness" of the Holy Spirit, and the 'still small voice' of the Lord speaking to us every day.

But what I have found again and again with people who give themselves over to some form of deception is that they often "override" these inner alarms. They go against their 'better judgment'. They ignore the little voice deep inside them that is telling them that there is something wrong. Christians today do this all the time. That is how they get themselves involved in such foolish deceptions.

This may all sound very obvious, but I am telling you, this one basic area alone could wipe out half the deception in the church right now. If only people would listen to these internal 'alarm bells' and act with common sense, half of it would be gone overnight.

The Bible is very clear that the Last Days are a time of such widespread deception that it would "deceive if possible the very elect". It also shows that much of this deception will arise from WITHIN the church - luring believers who have "itching ears". Do we see evidence of this kind of thing taking place today? Absolutely! In fact, some of it is at a level that is truly shocking. And yet it is all accepted as perfectly "normal" by many Christians.

One of the problems, of course, is that those who bring in these deceptions are 'trusted' by the congregation. They have a reputation and they put across some very convincing-sounding arguments and surround the whole thing with Biblical terminology. And thus the deception is harder to spot. (After all, if it were not "deceptive" then it would not be called 'deception'!) People see spiritual power operating and assume that it "must be God". But this is a very dangerous assumption to make in these days.

As I said in a previous chapter, there is also a lot of "peer pressure" involved as well. For if everyone in the church is getting into something, then shouldn't you just ignore those little 'alarm bells' and jump right in? This is what is happening all the time in the church right now. And some preachers are very good at making people feel that they are 'hindering the Spirit' if they do not get involved.

So how do you avoid being deceived in this way?

Very simply, you do not go along to these meetings in a "gullible" frame of mind. And you do not allow yourself to be carried along with the crowd. You listen carefully to the preaching and make

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NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

sure that it truly is Biblical. Then you watch the ministry happening down the front of the meeting and discern whether it really is of God or not. You do not "override" any feelings of unease or any 'alarm bells' going off inside you. And you do not allow yourself to be swayed by 'peer pressure'. Even if the whole church is getting into something, it does not mean that you have to. If you do not feel quite "right" about it then DO NOT GET INVOLVED. If you need to, make some excuse and get out of there! You do not have to get involved in things that do not feel spiritually "right" to you.

A lot of people today will go to the front to get something "imparted" to them by almost every visiting speaker - almost as a matter of course. I tell you, in today's climate this can be a very dangerous thing to do. In fact, some of this 'impartation' business has very flimsy backing in Scripture. Who knows what on earth these preachers are imparting? And who knows where they picked it up? I tell you, deceiving spirits are commonplace today, and I believe they are being imparted to Christians on a large scale.

Let me give you an example. I received the following account from a preacher in England not too long ago: "There were about 20 fellow ministers all gathered together in one large room at a local minister's house. We were introduced to the special guest... The next 3 hours were the weirdest three hours I have ever had to endure. We started listening to [her] testimony which seemed very powerful, next she spoke of the times that she meets with the Angel Gabriel and other spiritual beings, next we moved on to portals between this world and the next and then finally to how she was going to open up a portal to Heaven in the room that we were all in. Now things started to happen, really crazy things and strange noises... As [she] moved around the room ministering to individual people they were crashing to the ground, bouncing up and down, running around as if on fire and making all sorts of sounds. When she came to me she had no prophetic words for me and nothing happened to me so she just moved on. My Vineyard friend was the first to crash to the floor. Since that day his church has taken on a different guise, it is not the same church any more."

Now, you should know that this 'guest speaker' is a woman who is very high up in the Prophetic Movement - well known and highly regarded (except by people with discernment). This is typical of the kind of thing that happens in a lot of the more "powerful" prophetic meetings today. People are so desperate for a 'touch' or a spiritual experience that they will fall for anything. I myself have been in one of her meetings and what I saw was people making involuntary "bat"-like movements all over the building and an eery 'wailing' noise filling the air. It was truly awful.

Now, it should not surprise us that there are strong deceptions or "powerful delusions" around today, for this is exactly what the Scriptures predict will happen. All the way through the New Testament we are warned of these days - over and over again.

However, one of the problems we have is that God actually does 'strange and unusual' things Himself. (Especially in Revivals). So we cannot simply throw out everything unusual. Just think about the Book of Acts for a moment. Not only are there healings and miracles and demons being cast out right through the whole book, but there are also occasionally angels appearing with instructions from the Lord, and an abundance of dreams, visions and prophecies, etc. So we see that God is definitely a SUPERNATURAL GOD. He does "unusual" things. Angelic visitations DO HAPPEN. Prophetic signs DO OCCUR. But please notice that all of these things have a certain holy "character" about them. And that is the key right there. They have a holy character, because they come from a holy God.

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Being a strong Pentecostal-type Christian myself, I expect to see believers speaking in tongues and moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit - just like in the New Testament. But as I stated earlier, God never goes against His own holy character. Or against Scripture. And as I often say, we may see Him do 'unusual' things but I believe we need to draw the line at "weird" or ugly. Some of the deception that is around right now has a 'touchy-feely' New Age sense about it. Remember that the New Age movement majors on "inner healing" and unusual spiritual experiences. I do not believe in 'guided visualisation' or anything of that kind. And neither am I very fond of the writings of Catholic mystics or the like.

However, I have personally found it very helpful to immerse myself in the writings of past Revivalists and the accounts of great moves of God. A lot of the men and women involved in these Revivals lived very close to God and knew Him intimately. They knew His holiness, they knew His glory, and they knew His love. And it is enormously helpful to one's discernment to immerse oneself in these writings, I have found. I would recommend this to all Christians everywhere.

If you have been touched or involved in any way with manifestations or experiences that you think may not have been from God, then I urge you to utterly RENOUNCE (with your mouth, but also from the depths of your very being in Jesus' name) any links or involvement with that experience or 'anointing'. Please do not put this off, my friends. Some of this stuff is extremely dangerous. RENOUNCE it today.

I hope this article has been of some practical help.

God bless you all!
Kindest regards in Christ,
Andrew Strom.

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America The Coming Revival
Kevin Frasure

In the next four years we are going to see a huge amount of souls come running into the Kingdom. So, prepare yourself and be ready. Prepare yourself for personal revival. So, that you will be ready when it comes. Take time with your first love. Take time knowing Him again and having Him fill your being. Allow Him to transform you and shape you. Allow Him to grow inside of you and flow through you.

Churches Built On Tradition And Christian Witchcraft Will Fall

In the next four years we are going to see some churches fall and close their doors. The large amounts of souls that will be coming into the Kingdom will have no interest in tradition or manipulation disguised as leadership. They will want the "real deal". And when the real deal begins to appear, many who attend these churches will leave.

Many Churches Are Not Prepared

Many churches have a heart for evangelism, but they are not prepared for the massive coming harvest. It is time to seek the Lord and He will prepare you and your church.

Supernatural Provision

People are going to be amazed in some of the supernatural ways that God is going to provide in the coming months and years. Things that seemed impossible will be possible. I see land. Some of you are going to receive land and buildings to do the things that is your heart. You will owe nothing. It will be gift. I also hear the word "gold". God is going to provide gold in supernatural ways. People have experienced gold dust, they are about to experience gold bars!

24 Hour Prayer

I see many 24 hour prayer gatherings that will be taking place across America.

Wealth In The Seas

I keep hearing wealth in the seas. I am unsure what this means. But a massive amount of wealth will be coming out of the ocean in or around Florida.

You have my permission to post this word on your blogs, webpage or forum. Just put my link on it. www.myspace.com/warriorsabode Also, if this word has been a blessing to you and you would like to donate. You can do so through paypal (just click on the paypal button at the bottom of my page) or email me if you would like to send a money order, check or Western Union.
Thanks and God Bless,
Kevin

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A New Global Economy
Sharon Stone

"'A New Global Economy has begun and a Financial Era is over.'

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CNNMoney.com – "New World on Wall Street" article states, "…it brings to a close the era of the Wall Street investment bank…"

Bloomberg.com – Breaking News – "Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley Become Banks, Ending an Era for Wall Street"

Washington Post – "Era Ends for Wall Street Investment Firms"

The New York Times – "Shift for Goldman and Morgan Marks the End of an Era"

London Times.com – Business/Industry Sector – "End of the Wall Street Investment Bank" article states in it's opening paragraph, "…the end of an era on Wall Street."

"'A New Global Economy has begun and a Financial Era is over.'
Prophecy from Dr Sharon Stone on 21 September, 2008, at CIM Church, Burton on Trent

"I believe tomorrow, and continuing, we will see this in the headlines of the newspapers. The Banking crisis: failures and mergers, will continue for the next 3 years. Regulations in the financial sectors will affect the nations.

"But God says, 'In the long run it will be for your benefit. Breakthrough is not this year, but some will begin in 2009.'

"Some will quote the scripture:

Matt 6:31-34
31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

"Don't worry" does not mean "don't pay attention to." The bible also says:

Amos 3:7
7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. '

"God is raising up "Prophetic Economists" to progress outside personal prophesying into the economic, marketplace jurisdiction."

'So Declare to My people, "There is no recession in heaven." I have unprecedented means to bring provision to My people.

'Church, you cannot afford to be separated from My Prophets. Each Christian must seek, knock, ask, hear, and be obedient precisely to the plans I give them. But My Prophets will again speak into and change economic seasons and governments, just as Elijah prophesied that it would not rain from the

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revelation he received. That prophetic word affected and changed their economy. There were no crops, no harvest, no trade and no money when there was no rain. That prophetic word initiated a famine but it also brought miraculous provision for the widow during famine. Joseph's prophetic strategy prepared a nation to sustain nations in the times of famine.

'So connect on a new level to My Prophets. Revelation will assist My Church to resist recession.'

"Filing a Chapter 11 in the USA means bankruptcy; but God is saying, 'I want you to align with Hebrews Chapter 11 as heroes of Faith. Many will panic and fear, but you must partner with faith. When the spies came back to give their report of the Promised Land, the majority created an atmosphere of fear. Resist fear on behalf of your nations.

'Fear and famine will blind you from My provision. Elijah's servant could not see the cloud of provision due to fear, and famine blinded him. Elijah had already heard the abundance of rain. If you can hear the prophetic you can enter the grace of abundance and acceleration, being able to run, rather than operating in a frozen economy. This is a time of Abundance vs. Recession. Remember a New Global Economy has begun and a Financial Era is over.'

"A New Global Economy has begun and a Financial Era is over and many will try to use old market trends, but they will not work. Some will try to return to pre 1929 market crash strategy. But God already reminded me, He has been speaking to me about Europe choosing whether it is going to enter into an Old Feudal System where the rich minority rules the masses who are in lack, or, enter into a Fertile Season where God's provision sustains us and moves us ahead with abundance.

"You can reign where you have endured the pain. God wants to transform the difficulties that the economic crisis will cause. Money talks and brings influence. God wants to give us a new affluence, wealth and success."

'Don't look to the US dollar. Their economy has stumbled and is falling. Don't continue credit card debt. Be willing to wait on immediate gratification. I will assist those who have removed themselves from credit card debt with a grace of supply lines for the season ahead like Joseph.

'Enablement, favour, grace can be your portion where you will sow sacrificially, distribute with discernment, and cultivate a storehouse.'

Prov 3:1-1
Trust in Me with your whole heart and lean not on our own understanding. Remember to acknowledge Me in all your ways and follow Me as I direct our paths.

Heb 10:35-39
You need endurance so you can receive the promise. Don't cast away your confidence, for with it comes great recompense of reward.

'For My Church and this particular church: The whole provision structure has changed. It is an economy of enablement, favour, and grace. As the king said "Is there no prophet of the LORD here that we may inquire of the LORD by him?" The king's servant informed him Elisha was there. They had need; they were lacking water for the army going out against Moab.

'And the prophet instructed them to dig ditches right where they were, in their valley of need and lack. The provision of water would come but not in the usual way through rain. Provision would come through preparation and obedience to prophetic revelation.

'If you will prepare yourself to contain my provision, the rain will come. It will come from the unclean; so don't call them unclean. You will grow in quantity. I will multiply you, and there will be greater corporate provision. I will remove obstacles for you. Enter this economy of grace.'

National Economy Prayer Assignment Invitation

We are gathering to represent our nation before the courts of God on October 29, 2008 at the London Stock Exchange. Cindy Jacobs has recruited teams from across the nations to meet at their nations' stock exchanges simultaneously on the 29th. We will be gathering together for the healing of our nation's economy and the global economy.

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October is the anniversary of "Black Tuesday", the infamous day of the 1929 U.S. stock market crash and the reverberations felt around the world.

We will be letting you know where to meet as we get closer to the date. Those who are considering coming or who are willing to be in prayer for us while on assignment, **please get back in touch with us as soon as possible.**

Comments from Mario Liu:

(1) 'Church, you cannot afford to be separated from My Prophets. Each Christian must seek, knock, ask, hear, and be obedient precisely to the plans I give them. But My Prophets will again speak into and change economic seasons and governments, just as Elijah prophesied that it would not rain from the revelation he received.

(Mario's notes: There are false prophets around and it may be unwise to just encourage the church to be obedient to the prophets. Maybe the church should learn to hear from God themselves, and then God may direct them to one of His prophets.)

(2) 'But God already reminded me, He has been speaking to me about Europe choosing whether it is going to enter into an Old Feudal System where the rich minority rules the masses who are in lack, or, enter into a Fertile Season where God's provision sustains us and moves us ahead with abundance.

(Mario's notes: it may be spiritual abundance, or God may bring physical abundance to those who had waited in obedience.)

(3) "You can reign where you have endured the pain. God wants to transform the difficulties that the economic crisis will cause. Money talks and brings influence. God wants to give us a new affluence, wealth and success."

(Mario's notes: 1. 'Money talks and brings influence' - this is man's way, or Satan's way. Satan asked Jesus to worship him in exchange for money and fame. God may work in different ways. Jesus on earth did not use money to 'talk and bring influence.' He used signs and wonders and Godly wisdom instead. 2. I also believe that God works in cycles (see the life of Joseph), and there are two sides in each lesson that we are to be trained under. For some, those who had experienced prosperity, it may be time for them to experience lack. For others the reverse maybe true. The word above would only apply to those people who have 'endured the pain'.)

Comments from Robert Holmes:

1. Thessalonians encourages us "do not despise prophecy, but test EVERYTHING, hold fast to what is good, reject what is evil" – prophecies sometimes contain evil, or something of the flesh.

2. I believe this is a timely word and warning – and can set us up properly, if we prepare, and take God seriously.

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"THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW"

by Andrew Strom

A lot of people probably read some of the writings on this website and wonder, "Where is all this headed? What is the goal?" A glib answer might be- "We want to get back to real 'New Testament' Christianity." But what exactly does that look like?

This is an important topic - and something I have pondered a great deal over the years. What exactly would the 'New Testament Church' look like if it was translated into a modern western city?

To get started, I want you to forget about today's church just for a moment - with all her obvious problems and contradictions, and picture something quite different. I want you to imagine that you are still living in the same city, in the same year, but you are right in the middle of a 'Book of Acts'-type scenario. Somehow everything has changed.

For some reason, all of the Spirit-filled Christians in your city have left their Denominations and divisions behind. They have truly begun to fulfill the prayer of Jesus - "That they all may be ONE". They now hold huge gatherings all over the city - right out in the open. And as well as these united gatherings, on most streets there is now a house-meeting, where all the Spirit-filled believers from that street gather together, eating and sharing and having communion, etc. (ie. A "NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH"). The power of God flowing in these house-meetings is amazing. Many healings and miracles are occurring. The 'gifts' flow freely every day.

It seems also that many of the church buildings and cathedrals have simply been abandoned. No longer do Christians want to hide themselves away behind "four walls". They want to gather out where the people are - presenting Jesus to the whole world. They

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!

MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE

RECENT BOOK-

REVIVAL HYMN -Very powerful

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USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL

"TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH"

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)
- Andrew Strom

"THE TRUE GOSPEL - HAVE WE EVER HEARD IT?"
- Andrew Strom

"DEEP DEALINGS (My Testimony)"
- Andrew Strom

"THE THUNDERING SONG"

"PRAY ALONG WITH AGONIZING PRAYER"
- Listen & Pray!

"THE COMPROMISE SONG"

"STREET REVIVAL IS COMING!"
- Andrew Strom

"THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD"
- Andrew Strom

"OUTSPOKEN!"
-Andrew Strom.

want to be truly "one body". There is no way that any of their old buildings could contain the crowds, anyhow.

And the men whom God has raised up to lead this vast movement do not seem much like the 'Reverends' or even the 'televangelists' of old. In fact, quite a few of them have never even been to Bible College, and they seem to be very plain, ordinary people from humble backgrounds. But what an anointing! It is very clear to everyone that these 'apostles and prophets' (as they are known) have spent many years in prayer and brokenness before God - drawing closer and closer to Him. When they speak, the very fear of the Lord seems to come down, and many people repent deeply of their sins. Demons are cast out and the blind and crippled are made whole. -These kinds of things are happening all the time. The whole city is just in awe of what is going on, and thousands upon thousands are being saved. Even the newspapers and television are full of it.

As soon as someone repents they are immediately baptized in water and hands are laid on them for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. -This is expected from day one! And it is also expected that every Christian has a gift and calling from God - and that they should be encouraged to move forward and fulfill their calling. No longer is there a distinction made between those who are "ministers" and those who are merely 'laity'. Now it is expected that EVERYONE is a minister of the Lord! (However, there are 'elders' - ie. older Christians to guide things).

Some of the bishops and pastors from several denominations have actually denounced this great move of God very strongly. They say it is "deception" and warn their people to stay away. (-Every Revival in history has been accused of this - usually by religious leaders). But to be honest, it is so obvious to most people that God is the one behind it all, that very few take these men seriously. The Spirit of God is sweeping all before Him. The glory of the Lord has come.

One of the reasons that these leaders are so upset is that a lot of the Christians' GIVING now does not go to church buildings, but rather to the POOR. In fact, God has spoken to many people to start supporting widows and orphans overseas, etc. They also give generously to anyone in their midst who is in need. Many even sell their own possessions in order to do this.

The huge over-riding theme of this great movement is LOVE. "Behold how they love one another" is the catch-cry of many who watch this 'new church' in action. And everyone is given to MUCH PRAYER.

And so, gathering "as one" in the outdoors and breaking bread from house to house, they eat together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord adds to their number daily those who are being saved.

CAN THIS REALLY HAPPEN?

The above description is taken straight out of the Book of Acts - as applied to today. Everything in the above paragraphs is put there to give you an idea of what it would be like to live in the Jerusalem church at the start of Acts. -And it was like that for YEARS. Imagine the impact of such a church on the world around

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)
- Andrew Strom

"THRIVE IN THIS CRISIS" (-Oct 08)
- Andrew Strom

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
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it! God is wanting to do this again. And He wants to use ordinary people like you and me to help bring it to pass.

I am convinced that we are NOT supposed to treat the early church as a "special case". It was given to us as an 'example'. It is what the "normal" church should be like all the time! And yet we have fallen so far below this standard. Only in times of Revival do we approach it again for a time. But I believe it is supposed to be "normal" for the church to be like this - day in and day out. This is the way that Jesus always wanted us to be.

However, one thing is clear. It will take a great "SHAKING" for us to get anywhere close to the above description today. You have to be aware that in order to get there from here, a whole lot of 'hierarchies' and church boards and careers and titles and positions would be on the line. And a lot of men simply don't want to lose those things. It doesn't matter to them whether it is Truth or not. If it affects their reputation, their position or their organization, they will oppose it with everything they have.

Sadly it is very difficult to see a "smooth" transition to this kind of Christianity. I believe we are in for a shaky ride. But I certainly believe that it is on God's agenda. And like the Great Reformation before it, I believe He will do WHATEVER IT TAKES in order to get us there.

Here's to true 'NEW TESTAMENT' Christianity, my friends - the kind that Jesus and the apostles actually invented in the beginning.

Let us settle for nothing less - **WHATEVER IT TAKES.**

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Come Into The Glory

Angela Gulartie
California USA

signsandwonders12@yahoo.com

October 19, 2008

"Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you." Is 60:1

May the Grace of Father God, the Peace of Jesus Christ, and the Power of the Holy Spirit be released unto you this day!

Greetings, dear friends.

Today I would like to share with you the last few days I have had with God. His Word tells us that He is no respecter of persons! Therefore, I know that what He has done for me, He will do for you, if you ask and make yourself available to Him.

It really started last Sunday with the first of the Southern California fires. On three separate occasions prior to the fires, I had seen hanging overhead in the sky, large clouds that had formed into the distinct and clear shapes of a dragon. I knew that this meant that the enemy was attempting to launch some plot or assignment of hell against this geographic region.

The first two occasions were not all that difficult to deal with, because I was at home and on the alert. So, after consulting God about the best way to handle this issue, I got my shofar and walked out onto my back deck to sound the clarion call. I trumpeted a war cry into Heaven and broke the assignment of hell that the enemy had turned loose.

The third time, however, I was asleep at the wheel. I didn't notice the dragon overhead until I was driving out of the area and at that point, all I could do was pray with somewhat of a divided focus since the thing had gotten a head start on me and my shofar was not with me.

I believe that this assignment was the one that resulted in the fires that we were plagued with last weekend.

Through the combined efforts of prayer and intercession of many faithful friends in the Body of Christ, the damage was far less than what the enemy had intended. The first fire started just a few miles west of me, and though the Santa Ana's howled fiercely, they were unable to change direction and blow east.

Instead, I believe what happened was a "Joseph" situation. In other words, a plan that the enemy had for evil, became something ultimately used by God for good.

And I say that, solely and strictly on the basis of what I saw this week. On Saturday morning, I got up and wandered out to my back deck to greet the day. The skies were clear blue, a few white clouds here and there. The weather was gorgeous. But, most surprising of all, in the area where the fire had started, I saw a completely different type of cloud - and as I looked at it I knew that I was seeing a cloud from Heaven - the type of cloud referred to in Exodus as being one that God used to lead His people as they left Egypt! This was totally amazing, and mind boggling, but it quickly reminded me that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

God didn't stop there. About an hour later I again wandered back out onto the deck. I was talking on the phone to a girlfriend and lazily glanced out over the horizon. Imagine how stunned I was when I saw that the cloud had disappeared and now in its place, was a beautiful rainbow!

Mind you, it wasn't raining anywhere. But our God is a God of the miraculous and He is not limited to what we think of us as scientific patterns.

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I believe that with these signs, God was communicating a number of things. First, He was showing that He is the same now for His people as He was in the days of their enslavement by the Egyptians, and that we can trust and rely in Him to lead us out of bondage and to remember His covenant promises to us.

Second, I believe that God was revealing to me, that it was a time to enter into His reality at a higher level of engagement than I had just left behind.

To understand what I mean by that, I would like to share with you two brief dreams.

The first one had occurred a couple of days before the sighting of the cloud and rainbow. In the dream, I was dancing an intricate dance with a faceless man. The dance was quick, the steps were unusual, and I danced with a skill that came only from shutting off my mind and going with the rhythm that I somehow "knew" on the inside of my being.

In real life I am not a particularly adept dancer and this was unusual, but the only difficulty I experienced was in the first set of steps. After that, it was lively but effortless.

This dream represents being led by the Holy Spirit into new rhythms of moving with God's flow and doing new things which I have not done before.

The second dream came the night before the cloud and rainbow sightings. It too was a simple one.

I was staying in a hotel, and had gone to bed. As I lay in bed I heard very audibly, a buzzing that sounded like a mosquito flying over the top of my head, at the center of the top of the skull. I pulled the sheets over my head, fully expecting that would solve the problem because after all, mosquitoes can't bite through sheets.

Instead, the next thing I knew was that there was this nasty-looking animal-type creature with horrible incisors literally trying to chew a hole in the top of my skull!

As soon as I alerted to that, I grabbed this creature with both hands and broke its neck, then threw it down on the floor. I got up out of bed and looked at it, then looked out the window of the hotel room. There, in front of the window, was a huge sycamore tree, covered with blood that gleamed brightly in the daylight.

In this dream, God was showing me a spiritual attack from the demonic realm that had been launched against me, and which had failed. The large tree represented the Church, and the blood, of course, signified the Blood of the Lamb which covered the Church. I was "sleeping within its sight" as I stayed in the hotel, which represents a temporary place of transition, spiritually.

So to experience these awesome signs on the earth right after having two spiritually significant dreams, was a reminder to me, that God was doing something in this timing and I needed to pay attention and be ready to shift gears, all of which brings me to today's message.

The message is one I received after I came home from Sunday service. I had gone into intercession because of a heart burden I was moved by, someone in financial difficulties. After spending a long time in intercession, I then simply made myself available to God. I was reluctant to leave my time with Him.

Imagine my surprise when He began to show me things that would come to pass! And more than that, when He invited me up into a new realm that I had not previously known about! I wish I could describe to you, what it looked like, but there aren't really any good words that would fit. Let me just say, it was a new realm of Heaven I haven't visited before, and His Glory is prominent there.

And when I was there, this is what He said to me:

He said, "My people are so busy looking to the Moses of this world for spiritual direction, that they have forgotten that I want them to come up into the Glory! Man needs to stop looking to man, and each one must needs come up here and spend time with Me. And where I am, My Glory is."

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I realized, that it's not all that easy for us to spend time in His Glory. First of all, we have to get over our smallness of mind-set that thinks that is impossible, or, if its possible, certainly it has to wait until we are "more worthy". I know I certainly had that mindset.

I voiced that to God, and do you know what He said to me? He said, "Moses wasn't any more 'worthy' than you are right now. He was not a perfect man when He came and stood on My mountain. The only difference between him and you was *his willingness*."

And that's when I remembered, how the children of Israel had stood at the base of the mountain when God called them to come to him, and they refused because of the motivations of their heart. Instead, they deputized Moses to get the Word from God, and bring it to them.

Beloved ones, are we doing this today? Are we standing at the base of the mountain, unwilling to make the climb to see God for ourselves, and instead giving over responsibility for that assignment to the "Moses" of our present time? God clearly thinks so, and we need to stop it right now.

The other thing that makes it hard to climb up into that realm is that when we stand in the Glory, it shines the light of His truth on everything that is there. Which means, no deception is possible in the Glory.

And that means, that all of our frailties as human beings are exposed- not to God, who has always seen them- but to ourselves, who have hidden them away.

This is hard, but God is merciful. He reminded me that part of the purpose in our coming into the Glory, is so that we don't remain with our deceptions and our shortcomings. *The Glory transfigures who we are.*

And then He reminded me, of the Scripture where Jesus is standing on the Mount of Transfiguration with two of His disciples. As they watched, He became transfigured before their very eyes.

He became transfigured *by the Glory of God descending upon Him while He was still a human being.* And in that way, He demonstrated a pattern we should all be expecting to have in our own lives.

Now, just a reminder. I can't, you can't, we can't, transfigure while we are stuck in the mud of the earth! Notice that Jesus was *on the mountain* when He had this experience.

That mountain is symbolic of taking our eyes off of the worldly circumstances surrounding us, and keeping them focused instead on God. And this is something we practice every day!

Now more than ever, it is time to come into a new level of relationship with God. Won't you do what He asks of you, and come into the Glory?

Blessings,

Angela G.

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Choose Life A Word for Latin America

Kathy Brown
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

For forty years the children of Israel wandered around the desert. Forty years *after* they got to the border of the Promised Land. When the Lord brought them to the Land, the spies they sent in gave a report of fear - they were not ready to conquer the land - so they could not yet go in.

More wandering.

More wandering until an entire generation had arisen - a generation not raised in slavery. A generation of warriors raised up with a cloud by day and a fire by night, a generation raised up with a promise and a hope.

To those over forty: Today you live in a generation that has been in transition. Your parents were raised in slavery; your parents were raised in hard labour and unfair treatment, but the Lord has taken you out of Egypt - and has shown you His provision. Like the children of Israel, you have come through the wilderness and have seen the provision of God there. You have seen the fire on the mountain; you have seen the cloud and the fire. God has given you a glimpse of the promise, and the choice is yours. Will you be like Joshua and Caleb, or will you be like the eight other spies?

Ten spies went into the promised land. Ten spies saw a beautiful land full of fruit and grain and populated by well-fed livestock. Ten spies also saw walled cities protected by fierce-looking warriors.

Eight spies came back saying this:
The land is beautiful and full of astonishing natural resources - but there are fierce warriors - GIANTS! - guarding the cities - too bad the odds are against us. Too bad this land can't be ours.

Two spies came back saying this:
The land is beautiful and full of astonishing natural resources. There are fierce warriors - GIANTS! - guarding the cities. What a great victory it will be when the Lord our God gives them into our hands!

My friends, too often I have been like the eight spies and not like the two. I have paid attention to the giants and not paid attention to the power of my God. So easily I forget the fire on the mountain and the provision of manna and quail and water - and how He delivered my people from slavery in Egypt. How about you?

I had a vision while I was worshiping at a church in Honduras recently. A message of hope had been given, a message that said: There is a promise for you, a promise for Honduras, a promise for Latin America! God was saying it was time to stop picking up seconds, time to lift up your heads! Then after the message, I saw in a vision the people in the church service walking with their heads down in a circle. They were singing about God's love and recalling His promises -- but it was just words. The message of hope had not pierced their hearts, and around in circles they walked.

For too long you have been walking in circles. For too long you have believed the eight spies. God is raising up a generation who will believe the promise! God is raising up a generation of warriors who are tired of defeat, tired of oppression, tired of marching around and around, and tired of the same old empty words.

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Those of you in the generation of Joshua have a responsibility to this up-and-coming generation. You have a responsibility to speak *victory* to them. You have a responsibility to speak *destiny* into them. Life and not death, a blessing and not a curse.

When the time came for the new generation to finally go in and take the land- these words were spoken over them, and this is God's word to this generation:

I call Heaven and Earth as witnesses before you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So CHOOSE LIFE in order that you may live, you and your children and your children's children. CHOOSE LIFE by loving the Lord your God. CHOOSE LIFE by hearing, listening to, and obeying the voice of God. CHOOSE LIFE by holding fast to Him; for THIS IS YOUR LIFE - to know Him, and the length of your days that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers! CHOOSE LIFE!

Eight spies did NOT choose life, so they died in the desert, and an entire generation believed their word and perished with them. Let us not give a report of fear to our young people, or an entire generation will perish in the desert! Let us give a report of victory, blessing, and prosperity to our young people, to our sons and daughters so that with them, like Joshua and Caleb, we will inherit the Promised Land.

And to those of you who think you are too old to fight - hear this - hear what Caleb said when Joshua was dividing the land to conquer (Joshua 14:7ff):

"I was forty years old when Moses sent me to spy out the land, forty years old when I gave him the report that was in my heart. My brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear, but I fully followed the Lord my God. As Moses swore on that day, that the land where I walked would be mine and my children's forever, the Lord has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years since we came into the desert, and now I am eighty-five years old, and I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. Now then, GIVE ME THIS HILL COUNTRY, this land full of giants that the Lord promised me, and the Lord will go with me, and I will drive the giants out!"

The time has come for you to be men and women with hearts like Caleb, fully following the Lord your God, determined to possess the land that He promised to you! And you will not perish in the desert - but you will lead a generation to victory, and like Caleb you will finish your days in *rest* and *satisfaction*, knowing you have heard, listened to, and obeyed the voice of your God.

CHOOSE LIFE!

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Protection From Deception

Navigating Through The Minefield Of Signs And Wonders

by Derek Prince

Based on a series of talks given by Derek Prince to his coworkers in Derek Prince Ministries in March 1996

Chapter 1

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Let Us Honor God's Holy Spirit
Signs and Wonders Do Not Determine Truth
Mixture Produces Confusion and Division
The Identity of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 2: Earthly, Soulish, Demonic
Understanding the Human Personality
From Rebellion to Salvation
Discerning Between Soul and Spirit
From Earthly to Soulish to Demonic
Is There a Way to Protect Ourselves?
Five Movements that Went Astray

Chapter 3: Four Safeguards
No. 1: Humble Ourselves
No. 2: Receive the Love of the Truth
No. 3: Cultivate the Fear of the Lord
No. 4: Make and Keep the Cross Central

Let Us Honor God's Holy Spirit

This is the first in a series of three messages. In this, number one, I will seek to analyze a problem that has arisen in many sections of the church in many parts of the world. In the next message, I will seek to analyze how the problem arose. And in the third message, I will consider ways to guard against that problem arising again. The title of this first message is "Let Us Honor God's Holy Spirit."

Signs and Wonders Do Not Determine Truth

There has been in recent years a worldwide explosion of signs and wonders. Some have been biblical and helpful. Others have been bizarre and unbiblical. Signs and wonders are not new. They are recorded in various passages of the Bible and in different periods of church history. However, the current explosion extends more widely than any particular church or denomination and has attracted widespread attention in both the religious and the secular media.

I want to make it plain that I have no personal prejudice or anxiety concerning unusual manifestations. In actual fact, I have in my own lifetime experienced quite a number of them. They do not frighten me. I am not negative about them.

As I recorded in my booklet *Uproar in the Church*, my own personal encounter with Jesus in World War II began in a very unconventional way. In the middle of the night, in a barrack room of the British Army, I spent more than an hour on my back on the floor, with my body first racked by convulsive sobs and then filled with a river of laughter which grew continually louder.

Next morning, I found myself a completely different person, changed not by any act of my will but by yielding to the supernatural power that had flowed through me. I then looked up various passages in the Bible that speak about laughter. To my surprise, I discovered that - for God's people - laughter is not primarily, as we imagine, a reaction to something comical, but rather an

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expression of triumph over our enemies.

In Psalm 2:4, David actually depicts God Himself as laughing:

> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh: The Lord shall hold them in derision,

Here, God's laughter is not a reaction to some comedy that is being enacted on earth. Rather, it is His response to the ridiculous human midgets who have the effrontery to oppose His purposes. It is His expression of triumph over all the forces of evil.

Sometimes, God fills us with His own laughter that we may share in His triumph over those who are both His enemies and ours.

Later I pastored a fellowship in London that met on the top floor of a five-story building. One evening a lame man was miraculously healed and threw away his crutches. We all burst into spontaneous praise. At that moment the building began to tremble and shake with the power of God. The praise and shaking continued for about thirty minutes.

I realized that something similar was recorded of the early church in Acts 4:31:

> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

At that particular time, our fellowship was conducting several evangelistic meetings each week in the streets of London, and we certainly needed more than natural boldness.

But with regard to any kind of manifestation, there are two questions that I always want to ask. Number one: Is it a manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God? Or is it a manifestation from some other source? And number two (and this is related to it): Is the manifestation in question in harmony with Scripture?

In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul says, *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.* In other words, the Holy Spirit is the author of all Scripture, and He never says or does anything to contradict Himself. Every genuine manifestation of the Holy Spirit will, in some way. harmonize with Scripture.

Now, I want to begin with some warnings of Jesus, particularly related to the end time period in which I believe we are living. These are warnings against deception. They are found in Matthew chapter 24, verses 4, 5, 11 and 24. In other words, four times in 21 verses, Jesus specifically warns us against deception in this period of the close of the age.

The first thing Jesus said about the events leading up to His return, in Matthew 24:4: *"Take heed that no one deceives you."* Verse 5: *"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah (Christ),' and will deceive many."* Verse 11: *"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many."* And then in verse 24: *"For false messiahs (christs) and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."*

So, Jesus warns us four times against deception. Anybody who shrugs off that warning or treats it lightly does so at the risk of his own soul.

The greatest single danger in this end time is not sickness, nor poverty, nor persecution. It is deception. If anybody says, "It could never happen to me," it has already happened to that person, because that person is saying something could never happen that Jesus said would happen. That is a sufficient indication that such a person is deceived.

Next, I want to say something important about signs and wonders. They do not determine truth. It is very essential to understand that. **Signs and wonders do not determine truth!** Truth is already determined and established, and it is the Word of God. In John 17:17, Jesus is praying to the Father, and He says, *"Your word is truth."* And in Psalm 119:89, the psalmist said, *Forever, 0 Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.* Nothing that happens on earth can ever change the smallest little sign or letter of the Word of God. It is forever settled in heaven.

Now, the Bible speaks about signs and wonders. It says some things about them that are good, and some that are very frightening. I want to turn to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 and read a few verses there, beginning at verse 9.

> The coming of the lawless one [that is the title of the Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

So, Paul says here there are such things as lying signs and wonders. There are true signs and

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there are lying signs. True signs attest the truth. Lying signs attest lies. Satan is fully capable of supernatural signs and wonders. Unfortunately, many in the Charismatic movement have the attitude that if something is supernatural, it must be from God. There is no scriptural basis for that assumption. Satan is perfectly capable of producing powerful signs and wonders to attest his lies, and the reason such people are deceived is *because they did not receive the love of the truth.* On such people God will send *strong delusion.*

That is one of the most frightening statements in the Bible. If **God** sends you *strong delusion*, you will be deluded. I think that is one of the most severe judgments of God recorded in Scripture, sending these people *strong delusion.* They will be condemned, these people, because *they did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Therefore, signs and wonders are not a guarantee that something is the truth. There is only one sure way to know the truth. It is in the Word of God. Jesus said in John 8:32, *"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* There is no other way to be sure that we can escape deception in these days except that we know and apply the truth of God's Word, the Scripture.

In 1994, for the first time, I was brought into fairly direct contact with one of the groups where those manifestations were occurring. A group of leaders went to some of their meetings and returned all excited, saying they had experienced something wonderful and we all needed to experience it. They said, "Now, you don't test it. You don't try it out. You don't examine it. You just open up to it and receive it." That was the first time that I really began to be suspicious of some of these things, because such a statement is directly contrary to Scripture.

In I Thessalonians 5:21, Paul says to Christians, *Test all things: hold fast what is good.* So, if we do not test things, we are disobeying Scripture, and anybody who tells us not to test things is, himself, not in harmony with Scripture.

Our hearts cannot be relied upon to give us the truth. Proverbs 28:26 says, *He who trusts in his own heart is a fool.* So do not be a fool. Do not trust your own heart. Do not rely upon what your heart tells you, because it is not reliable. Again, in Jeremiah 17:9 the prophet says, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

That word *deceitful* in the Hebrew is a very interesting word. In 1946, I was attending the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as a guest student studying the nature - or the law - of the Hebrew language. I was listening to the head professor in this field at that time talking about this verse: Jeremiah 17:9: *The heart is deceitful above all things.* He gave reasons which I cannot carry over from Hebrew to show that this form of the word *deceitful* is active, not passive. It does not mean that your heart is deceived. It means that your heart deceives you, so you cannot trust your own heart.

The professor gave a very vivid picture of what it means to find out the truth about your own heart. He said it is like someone peeling an onion. You peel off skin after skin, but you never know when you have reached the last skin - and all the time your eyes are watering. So that has remained with me now for 50 years - such a vivid, scriptural warning against relying on my own heart to tell me the truth. There is only one source of truth, and that is the Scripture.

Mixture Produces Confusion and Division

Now, I would like to give briefly my summation of this whole phenomenon /movement/whatever-you-want-to-call-it, based partly on personal observation and partly on what I believe to be reliable reports. My summation is very simple: it is a mixture of spirits, both the Holy Spirit and unholy spirits. They are mixed together.

In Leviticus 19:19, God warns us against mixture. He is opposed to mixture. God says this, *"You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you."* So, God warns against three things: breeding mixed livestock, sowing with mixed seed and wearing a mixed garment.

We could say that sowing with mixed seed represents the message that we bring, when it is partly truth and partly error. Wearing a mixed garment would be like a lifestyle that is partly scriptural and partly of this world. And letting livestock breed with livestock of an incompatible kind would be equivalent to a Christian ministry or group aligning itself with a group or ministry that is non-Christian.

It is an interesting thing about such breeding; its product is always sterile. For instance, you can mate a horse with a donkey and the product is a mule. But a mule is always sterile; it cannot reproduce. I think that is one reason why there are so many "sterile" operations in Christendom - they are being bred with the wrong mate.

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Now, I have observed this carefully, and I have had grievous experience of this condition of a mixture of spirits. I find that it is something which the Scripture warns us against. For instance, there is a character in the Bible, King Saul, who had a mixture of spirits. At one time, he prophesied in the Holy Spirit; at another time, he prophesied in a demon. His career is really a warning. He was a king who ruled for forty years. He was a successful military commander. He had a lot of successes. But mixture was his undoing, and his life closed with tragedy. On the last night of his life, he went to consult a witch, and the next day he committed suicide on the battlefield. Surely that offers no encouragement to any of us to cultivate any kind of spiritual mixture in our lives.

I have observed that the result of mixture is two things: first of all, confusion; and then division. For instance, we have this mixed message, part of which is true, part of which is false. People can respond in two ways. Some will see the good and focus on it, and therefore accept the bad. Some will focus on the bad, and therefore reject the good. In either case, it does not accomplish God's purposes.

Once upon a time I was a pastor, a long time ago, but I remember that the most difficult kind of people to deal with were people who were a mixture. I will give you a little imaginary example. We have Sister Jones in our congregation. One Sunday she gives a beautiful, prophetic message and everybody is uplifted, excited. But two Sundays later, she stands up and gives a revelation which she had in a dream. The further she goes with this revelation, the more confused and confusing it becomes. Eventually, as pastor, I have to say to her, "Sister Jones, I thank you, but I really don't believe that is from the Lord," and she sits down - but that is not the end.

After the meeting, Sister White comes to me and says, "Brother Prince, how could you talk to Sister Jones like that? Don't you remember that beautiful prophecy she gave two Sundays ago?" And when Sister White is gone, Brother Black comes to me, and he says, "If that's the kind of revelation she has, I won't listen to any more of her prophecies!"

So, you see what we have? Confusion, and out of confusion, division. I believe that is exactly what is happening in the church: confusion resulting in division. Certainly there is tremendous division! I believe confusion will always produce division.

The Bible gives us no liberty to tolerate the incursion of evil into the church. We are not to be passive; we are not to be neutral. Proverbs 8:13 says, *The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.* It is sinful to compromise with evil. It is sinful to be neutral toward evil. In John 10:10 Jesus spoke about the thief, the devil, who comes: *to steal, to kill and to destroy.* We always need to remember, whether it is in an individual life or in a congregation, the devil only comes with three objectives: *to steal, to kill and to destroy.*

I can remember many times I have been speaking with a person who needed deliverance from an evil spirit, and I have said to that person, "Remember, the devil has three reasons for being in your life: *to steal, to kill and to destroy.* You need to take a stand against him, not be neutral - you must drive him out." What is true of an individual is true of a congregation. It is true for the body of Christ, worldwide.

Some of these unusual manifestations have been compared with unusual manifestations that accompanied the ministry of John Wesley, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards and Charles Finney. Undoubtedly there were unusual manifestations in the ministries of those four men, and I have studied some of them myself, but I think the differences are greater than the similarities with the present situation. Let me point out to you three differences:

First of all, all those men majored on the strong preaching of God's Word. They hardly did anything until they had preached the Word of God, or apart from the preaching of the Word of God. Finney, himself, commented somewhere about his ministry, "I usually spoke an hour or two." I do not know how many contemporary Christians in the West would listen to a two-hour sermon, but Finney gave the Word in its purity and in its power.

Second difference: All those men made a strong call for repentance. That was their primary demand on the people to whom they ministered. Some people call what we are seeing today "a refreshing," but in Acts 3:19 Peter says that *refreshing* must be **preceded** by repentance. Any *refreshing* that bypasses repentance is not scriptural.

The third difference is that in the ministry of those men, there is no record as far as I know that any of them laid hands on people. I am not saying that it is unscriptural to lay hands on people, but there is a difference. There is a situation in which people receive directly for themselves from the preached Word and another situation in which people have hands laid on them by others.

If I could take a simple example. It is like rain. If you are out in the open and the rain falls upon you, you have received your rain direct from heaven. But, on the other hand, if rain is caught and stored in some kind of a cistern, then you are not receiving that rain direct from heaven. You have to take into account the cistern and the pipes through which you receive the rain.

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This is very vivid for me, because my first wife, Lydia, and I lived in Kenya for five years in a house where our water came from rain caught on the roof and channeled into concrete cisterns. Although the water came from heaven, we quickly learned by experience that if it stayed for any length of time in the cistern, worms developed in it and, consequently, we always had to boil our drinking water. There was nothing wrong with the rain as it came down, but something happened in the channel through which the rain came to us, and it was no longer pure. I think this can be true of laying on of hands. It is a channel which is not always pure.

Recently some ministers have moved from actually laying on hands to some other action of the hands - such as waving or pointing. However, this does not change the fact that something is being transmitted through the hands. Otherwise, there is no reason to use the hands at all. The important question still remains: Are those hands pure channels through which only the Holy Spirit can flow?

For instance, Ruth and I were in a meeting fairly recently where ministers deeply involved in the current move were speaking. We were sitting about two rows behind a woman who was having a terrible experience. She was like somebody continually trying to burp or trying to vomit, and she just went on and on and on. Eventually, I said to Ruth, "I think we ought to try to help her."

So, although it was not a meeting for which we were responsible, we went over quietly and started to talk to her. We discovered very quickly that she was speaking in a tongue, but for both of us it was evident that it was a false tongue; it was not a Holy Spirit tongue. We challenged her to confess that Jesus is Lord, and she was not willing or able to say that. So I conclude that she had a false spirit.

Later on, the people who were with her came over and talked to us and asked us what they should do about it. I asked them, "How did it happen?" And they said, "Well, she went to a church that's involved in this move and somebody laid hands on her and this is the way she has been since then. But," they said, "she's convinced it's from God. We can't help her." That is just an example of "rain" that came through a "cistern" that was not pure.

Also, in the present move, there is a great deal of emphasis on love. I agree that love is the greatest thing. But the trouble is that people are not always clear about the nature of love as it is described in the New Testament. First of all, love in us is expressed by obedience to the Lord. Any kind of love that does not result in obedience is unscriptural love.

In John 14:15, Jesus said to His disciples, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments,"* or, in a perhaps better text, *"You will keep My commandments."* In other words, what is the evidence that you love Him? The evidence is keeping His commandments. Then in verse 21a. Jesus says, *"He who has My commandments and keeps them. it is he who loves Me."* And in 1 John 5:3, it says, *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.* Therefore, any kind of love that does not result in obedience to the will of God revealed in His Word is not scriptural love. It is a counterfeit, a substitute for the real thing.

Then, we need to consider the way that God expresses His love toward us. True, God is our Father, and He loves us. But as a Father, if necessary, He is prepared to discipline us. In the messages to the seven churches depicted in Revelation, I would say that Laodicea is probably the one that corresponds most closely to the contemporary church in the West. And to that church the Lord said, *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" (Rev. 3:19).*

So, God's love is not sloppy. It is not sentimental. It is right down-to- earth. If we are straying from His ways and if we are disobedient, His love is expressed in rebuking us and chastening us, and He commands us to repent. Once again we have the problem of trying to get what God promises, but bypassing the basic condition of repentance - which is a deception.

I recently read the following comment by a British Bible teacher:

> Some Christians take the text "God is love" and turn it around to mean "Love is God." In other words, nothing can be wrong if it is rooted in love. However, any love that comes between us and God is an illegitimate love ...

Likewise any love that diverts us from obedience to God's Word is illegitimate.

The Identity of the Holy Spirit

In all of this that we are speaking about. this worldwide phenomenon, I believe there is one, central, underlying issue, which is often obscured. In fact, very seldom do we come really to grips with this issue.This issue is **the identity of the Holy Spirit.** How do we recognize the Holy Spirit? How do we know what the Holy Spirit is like? And how do we distinguish the Holy Spirit from other

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spirits?

I read a statement recently by some New-Ager in which she said about the "New Age," "When the holy spirit comes, then the New Age will be here." Of course I am sure most of you would understand that when she talks about the holy spirit, she is not talking about the same Holy Spirit that the Bible speaks about. This is one of various indications that there is a **counterfeit holy spirit.**

It is nothing new for Satan to produce a religious counterfeit. Since the time of Jesus, history records a whole series of counterfeit messiahs who have risen among the Jewish people. All of them had a following. Some like Sabbetai Zvi, had a widespread and enduring influence. The latest of them died in 1994.

Another religious counterfiet is the being titled the "blessed virgin Mary." With all the claims that have been made for her and all the titles that have been ascribed to her, she bears no resemblance to the humble Jewish maiden who became the mother of Jesus, and later of His brothers and sisters. Yet over the centuries this counterfeit has claimed the devotion of millions of sincere Christians.

We need to be on our guard, therefore, that we do not entertain a counterfeit "holy spirit." I want to suggest to you three ways to identify the Holy Spirit, to recognize who the Holy Spirit is.

The first way I refer to in my little booklet Uproar in the Church, which I wrote about two years ago. I will just quote a few paragraphs:

> Another danger that threatens those who minister in the supernatural realm is the temptation to use spiritual gifts to manipulate or exploit or dominate people. At one period in my ministry I found myself casting spirits of witchcraft out of church-going people. Eventually, I asked the Lord to show me the true nature of witchcraft.
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> I believe the Lord gave me the following definition: Witchcraft is the attempt to control people and get them to do what you want by the use of any spirit that is not the Holy Spirit.
>
> After I had digested this, the Lord added: **And if anyone has a spirit that he can use, it is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, and no one uses God.**
>
> That is very important. The Holy Spirit is God, and no one uses God.
>
> Then I went on to say,
>
> Today I tremble inwardly when I see or hear of a person who claims that he has spiritual gifts which he is free to use just as he pleases. It is surely no accident that some of those who have made such claims have ended in serious doctrinal error.

It is important to see that there is a difference between the Holy Spirit Himself, as a Person, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Romans 11:29, Paul tells us that the *gifts ... of God are irrevocable.* In other words, once God has given us a gift, He never takes it back. We are free to use it, not to use it, or to misuse it. But even if we misuse it, God does not take it back. Otherwise it would not be a genuine gift, it would only be a conditional loan.

It is a fact that people do misuse gifts of the Holy Spirit. Paul provides a clear example in I Corinthians 13:1:

> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

Obviously the Holy Spirit Himself does not become a *clanging cymbal.* But the gift of speaking in tongues - when misused - can become an empty, discordant noise. Unfortunately this often happens in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles.

I believe it is possible to misuse other spiritual gifts - such as a word of knowledge or a gift of healing. This can happen when a person uses a spiritual gift to achieve a result or promote a movement which is not in harmony with the will of God. One obvious misuse would be for personal gain.

In such a situation, our safeguard is to be able to recognize the Holy Spirit as a Person and to distinguish between Him and His gifts. This, then, is the first and most important fact about the Holy Spirit: HE IS GOD. And we need to relate to Him and treat Him always as God.

The second fact about the Holy Spirit is that He is the servant of God the Father and God the Son. This is an exciting revelation because it gives such a high value to servanthood. Many people today despise the idea of being a servant. They feel it is demeaning and undignified to be a servant. But I think it is wonderful that servanthood did not begin on earth. It began in eternity

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and it began in God. God the Holy Spirit is the Servant of the Father and the Son. This does not demean Him or make Him less than God. But it is a fact that we have to recognize about Him, which directs His activities and the things He does.

In John 16:13-14 Jesus gives us a glimpse of the Holy Spirit's ministry and activity:

> "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth: for He will not speak on His own authority [literally: from Himself] but whatever He hears He will speak: and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

So we see: the Holy Spirit does not speak from Himself; He has no message of His own. Isn't that remarkable? He only reports to us what He is hearing from the Father and the Son. Secondly, His aim is not to glorify Himself, nor to attract attention to Himself, but always He glorifies and focuses attention on Jesus. That is the second important way to identify the Holy Spirit.

Now, I want you to listen to this carefully, because it is revolutionary. Any spirit that focuses on the Holy Spirit and glorifies the Holy Spirit **is not the Holy Spirit.** It is contrary to His whole nature and purpose. Once you have grasped that, it will open your eyes to many things which are going on in the church that are otherwise difficult to understand.

For example, we have a very beautiful chorus that we sing about the Father, the Son and the Spirit. The first verse says to the Father, "Glorify Thy name in all the earth." The second verse says to Jesus the Son, "Glorify Thy name in all the earth." The third verse says to the Spirit, "Glorify Thy name in all the earth." I love to sing the first two verses, but I decline to sing the third verse, because I do not believe it is scriptural. The Holy Spirit never does glorify His own name. His purpose is to glorify the One who sent Him.

Let me make another statement which may surprise you. I have not found in the Scripture anywhere an example of a prayer addressed to the Holy Spirit. So far as I can understand, no one in the Scripture ever prayed to the Holy Spirit. You probably would do well to check that for yourself, but I have looked carefully and have not found one example.

You might ask, "Why so?" And I would give you this answer: It is a question of heavenly "protocol." There is so little respect nowadays for protocol on earth that we sometimes do not realize that there is protocol in heaven. It is protocol relating to a master-servant relationship. In such a relationship, when you are dealing with a servant, you do not speak to the servant, but to the master. You ask the master to tell his servant what to do. It is wrong to directly address a servant when his master is available for you to speak to.

I believe that is heaven's protocol. When you recognize the relationship of the Holy Spirit to God the Father and God the Son, you understand that we never give orders to the Holy Spirit. When we want the Holy Spirit to do something, we address our request to the Father or to the Son.

When I was looking through this, I found a passage in Ezekiel chapter 37 which I thought, at first, was an exception. It is part of Ezekiel's well-known vision of the valley full of dry bones with no life in them. First of all, he prophesied and the bones came together, but they were still lifeless corpses. Then, in verses 9 and 10:

> Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, 0 breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

So, I thought that the "breath" is really a picture of the wind - or the Holy Spirit - and so Ezekiel was praying to the wind. But he was not praying. He was prophesying. And it did not come from himself. He merely passed on to the wind a command that he had received from God Himself. Therefore, as far as I have been able to discover, there is not a single example anywhere in the Scripture of praying to the Holy Spirit.

Now, I am not seeking to make a big issue out of that. On the other hand, I think it is very important as we try to discern the nature and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. You would say to me, "Well, doesn't God hear our prayer when we pray to the Holy Spirit?" I think He does. But we are not praying in full accord with heaven's protocol. If we really want to please the Lord and show respect for Him, we will show respect for His protocol.

The third important fact about the Holy Spirit is what is indicated in His name: **He is Holy.** This is His primary title: the Holy Spirit. In Hebrew it is the *Spirit of Holiness.* He has many other titles: for instance, the Spirit of Grace, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Power, and so on, But they are all subsidiary. His name and His primary title is the Holy Spirit. Anything that is unholy does not proceed from the Holy Spirit.

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The Scripture also speaks of the beauty of holiness. There is a beauty in holiness when it proceeds from the Holy Spirit. It is not necessarily external. It may be internal beauty. For instance, in I Peter 3:4, Peter speaks about *the hidden person of the heart*, and he speaks about *the adornment of a meek and quiet spirit*, which in the sight of God is of great price. This is not external beauty. It is internal beauty, which comes from the Holy Spirit.

I want to say, however, with the utmost emphasis: **Anything unholy or ugly does not proceed from the Holy Spirit.**

I will give you a list of 12 adjectives, all of which I believe cannot be applied to the Holy Spirit or to anything that is the product of the Holy Spirit. As I go through the list, I suggest you check mentally and see if you agree with me. Here, then, are words that would never apply to the Holy Spirit:

self-exalting	rude	insensitive
self-assertive	sham	stupid
degrading	vulgar	silly
flippant	indecent	degraded

I have in my heart, if God wills and I live, to write a book at some time of which I have already chosen the title. The title is this: *Holiness Is Not Optional*. Only God knows whether I will ever succeed in writing the book, but I want to say, in any case, that the title states the exact truth. In the Christian life, **holiness is not optional**. Many Christians seem to think about holiness as if it is like something added to a car, such as fancy leather upholstery instead of the normal kind of plastic. But that is not true. Holiness is an essential part of salvation. In Hebrews 12:14 the writer says, *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no man will see the Lord.* What salvation do we have that does not bring us to see the Lord? But without holiness, *no one will see the Lord*.

We have in our contemporary Western Christianity a very incomplete picture of salvation. "If I get saved and born again, and then I want to go on and be holy. I can do it - but it is an option." I want to tell you that your salvation depends on your being holy. And holiness comes only from the Holy Spirit.

There are many features of purported moves of the Holy Spirit that I could pick out and hold up as examples of things that are not holy. But I will only deal with one, and that is: animal behavior in human beings attributed to the Holy Spirit. There are many such examples, some I have witnessed and some have been reported.

First of all, there is no passage in Scripture that I know of where the Holy Spirit causes any human being to behave like an animal. There is the example of Balaam, but that is a strong contrast. God caused Balaam's donkey to speak like a man - but He never caused Balaam to bray like a donkey!

There was one man whom God caused to behave like an animal: Nebuchadnezzar.

> He was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.
>
> (Daniel 4:33)

But that was God's judgment, not His blessing! Revelation 4:6-8 depicts four living creatures that surround the throne of God. Three are there as representatives of the "animal" kingdom: a lion, a calf and an eagle. But none of them make noises that express their "animal" nature. All of them alike proclaim the holiness of God in pure and beautiful speech.

It is important to understand that there is an order in God's creation. Man was created in the image and likeness of God to exercise authority over the animal kingdom (see Genesis 1:26). Man is, in fact, the highest order of the creation described in the opening chapters of Genesis. This has a bearing on the way the Holy Spirit blesses us. He uplifts those whom He blesses. He will at times cause an animal to act in some ways like a human being. But He will never degrade a human being by causing him to act like an animal.

I have a certain amount of experience in this area because I have encountered animal spirits many times in Africa. I recall one particular deliverance service that I held in Zambia with about 7,000 Africans present. When I had finished the teaching and began to command the evil spirits to manifest themselves and come out of the people, there were all sorts of animal spirits that were let loose. By "animal spirits" I mean evil, demonic spirits that enter human beings and cause them to behave like animals.

The first thing that happened was that a man with a "lion spirit" tried to charge me. But someone tripped him up and he did not reach me.

You need to know that the reason these Africans in this part of Africa have so many animal spirits

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is because many of them are hunters of animals. They have this superstition that in order to hunt an animal successfully, you have to get the spirit of the animal in you. So a man tends to have the spirit of the animal which he seeks to hunt. For instance, the man who is hunting a lion, will get a lion spirit.

There are many others. We dealt with spirits of wild boars that caused people to burrow in the earth with their noses like a wild boar rooting for something. Then there were many snake spirits. These were mainly in women, and when they were manifested, the women were flat on their bellies slithering around like snakes. All these I actually witnessed myself.

There was one other spirit that I did not witness, but heard about from the missionary couple who organized the meeting. Later I met the lady concerned. She was a very sweet Christian lady - a school teacher - but her husband was an elephant hunter. When she came to the missionary couple for deliverance, they commanded the elephant spirit to come out. Immediately she dropped on her hands and knees, crawled out through an open door, put her forehead up against a small tree, and began to try to push it down. Wasn't that remarkable?

Perhaps some well-meaning Western Christian might have said, "Our sister is pushing a tree down for Jesus," but that was not the explanation. The elephant spirit in her was causing her to do what elephants regularly do, which is push down trees with their foreheads. As soon as she was delivered from that spirit, she no longer had any urge to push trees down with her forehead.

In the West, we sometimes tend to speak about the people in Africa as unsophisticated and to consider ourselves more sophisticated. However, I think in this realm of animal spirits it is we, in the West, who are unsophisticated and the Africans who are sophisticated. They have lived for generations with such spirits, but until the gospel came, with the power of the name of Jesus and the Word of God, they had no way to deal with them. Thank God that many of them now know how to deal with them!

Another example of which various reports have been given is people behaving like dogs. I am a dog lover, but I think dogs should be kept in their rightful place. I do not believe that the Holy Spirit ever causes anybody to bark or to run around like a dog.

Where such manifestations of animal spirits have occurred, there are certain steps that we need to take. We cannot tolerate or encourage such manifestations. Nor can we merely sweep all this under the carpet and go on as if nothing had happened.

In Matthew 12:33, Jesus instructs us:

> "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit."

Wherever there is bad fruit, it comes from a bad tree. It is not enough to get rid of the bad fruit. We must also cut down the bad tree that produced it. If we fail to do this, the bad tree will go on producing more bad fruit.

Undoubtedly the tree that produces animal behavior of this kind is some form of occult or pagan practice. For instance, there are frequent manifestations of animal behavior in some parts of Africa and India.

To cut down the tree requires that the leaders responsible identify the problem, confess it as sin and repent of it. Nowhere in the Bible is there any ground to suppose that God will forgive sins that we are not willing to confess.

Somebody has said, "The confession must be as wide as the transgression." If leaders have tolerated these things in the presence of their people, then in the presence of their people they need to confess it as a sin and cancel it. Otherwise, if the bad tree is not cut down, it will go on producing bad fruit.

In closing, I want to give a little "parable" of my own construction, which is about my relationship with my wife. In this parable my wife represents the Holy Spirit and I represent God. Now please understand, this is a very simple little parable and I am fully aware that the Holy Spirit is not the wife of God. But with those cautions, let me relate the parable.

A friend comes to me and says, "I saw you and your wife together on the platform the other evening and she looked so beautiful, so fresh, so full of the Holy Spirit." So I say, "Thank you. That's really how she is." Then, a little later, the same man comes to me and says, "You know, yesterday I saw your wife in a bar with a man drinking." And I say, "That was not my wife! My wife is a pure and godly woman. She does not go to bars and she does not drink with strangers. My wife was right here with me all day yesterday. Don't speak that way about my wife!"

But a little later, he comes to me and says, "You know, I saw your wife yesterday sunbathing

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topless on the beach." Then I get really angry. I say to him, "My wife was nowhere near the beach yesterday, and she would never expose herself like that! If you want to remain my friend, you've got to come to the place where you don't identify that loose, immoral woman as my wife, because that's an insult to her and to me, If you want to remain my friend, you've got to change the way you speak about my wife."

The application, of course, is this: if you want to remain a friend of God, you cannot afford to identify His Holy Spirit as something that is loose or immoral or ugly or unholy, because that angers God intensely.

Now we come to one final Scripture, which is in Matthew 12:31-32. Jesus says,

> "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

That is a very solemn and frightening warning. We are warned by Jesus Himself to be very, very careful how we speak about the Holy Spirit, how we represent the Holy Spirit.

Jesus uses the word *blasphemy*, and I decided to look it up in my big Greek lexicon. The primary meaning of *to blaspheme* is given in the lexicon as this: *to speak lightly or amiss of sacred things*. So when you speak lightly or amiss concerning the Holy Spirit, or misrepresent the character of the Holy Spirit, by definition you are close to blaspheming.

If you have ever done that, or been prone to do it, or been associated with those who do it, I want to offer you some sincere advice: You need to repent. You need to settle that matter once and for all with God and never again be guilty of misrepresenting God's Holy Spirit. **For the Holy Spirit is holy and He is God.**

Chapter 2: Earthly, Soulish, Demonic

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Derek Prince was educated in Britain at Eton and King's College, Cambridge. Later he held a Fellowship in Philosophy at King's.

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Protection From Deception

Navigating Through The Minefield Of Signs And Wonders

by Derek Prince

Based on a series of talks given by Derek Prince to his coworkers in Derek Prince Ministries in March 1996

Chapter 2

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Let Us Honor God's Holy Spirit
Signs and Wonders Do Not Determine Truth
Mixture Produces Confusion and Division
The Identity of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 2: Earthly, Soulish, Demonic
Understanding the Human Personality
From Rebellion to Salvation
Discerning Between Soul and Spirit
From Earthly to Soulish to Demonic
Is There a Way to Protect Ourselves?
Five Movements that Went Astray

Chapter 3: Four Safeguards
No. 1: Humble Ourselves
No. 2: Receive the Love of the Truth
No. 3: Cultivate the Fear of the Lord
No. 4: Make and Keep the Cross Central

Earthly, Soulish, Demonic

Our proclamation this morning is I Thessalonians 5:23-24:

> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify us completely; and may our whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is faithful, who also will do it. Amen.

We will carry on from yesterday evening, when I did my best to analyze what I consider to be a problem. This morning I purpose to analyze how this problem arises in terms of Scripture. This is very important because the problem continues to arise. I will give you five examples of the same problem arising in the last fifty years in the Charismatic movement. I feel that if we can analyze the problem, then the next step is to avoid it. So, what I have to say is entirely practical, I hope.

Understanding the Human Personality

Today I want to deal with the total human personality. And particularly, two elements of human personality. If we don't understand ourselves and how we are made up, we have a problem. The total human personality, I believe, is unfolded in the verse that we quoted: *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify us completely, and may our whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless.* So *completely* means *our whole spirit, soul and body.*

It says in Genesis chapter one that God decided to create man in His own image and in His likeness (Genesis 1:26). His *image* would refer to His outward appearance. There is something in the outward appearance of man that reflects the outward appearance of God. Let me point it out this way: it was appropriate that the Son of God should be manifested in the form of a male human

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being. He could not have come in the form of an ox or a beetle, because the male human being, in a sense, represents the *image* or the *outward appearance* of God. *For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God* ... (1 Corinthians 11:7).

The other phrase that is used is not *image* but *likeness. Likeness*, I believe, represents the inner structure of the Godhead. The structure of the Godhead is triune: Father, Son and Spirit. In that likeness man was created a triune being - spirit, soul and body. So man, in a unique way, represents God to the creation over which God set him as a ruler: in his outward appearance and in his inner composition. We are not going to deal with the outward appearance, but with the inner structure of human personality, which is threefold: spirit, soul and body.

If we go back to the creation, we can trace the origin of each. The spirit came from the in-breathed breath of God. When God breathed into Adam, that produced *spirit* in Adam. Incidentally, the words for *spirit* and *breath* are the same both in Hebrew and in Greek.

The body was clay infused with divine life. The soul came about through the union of spirit and body. The soul is the part that is difficult to understand. It is the unique, individual ego - the thing in each of us that can say, "I will" or "I won't." It is usually defined as consisting of the will, the emotions and the intellect. So, very simply, these are represented in three verbal statements: "I want," "I think," "I feel." That is the nature of the soul. Those who are separated from God by sin are dominated by their soul. You will find, if you analyze it, that the life and actions of the natural man are controlled by those three things: "I want," "I think," "I feel."

Now, let us consider what happened to Adam and Eve through sin. First of all, the spirit died. God said in Genesis 2:17 to Adam, *"The day you eat of that fruit you will die."* Adam did not die physically for more than 900 years, but he died spiritually the moment he disobeyed God.

At the same time, Adam's soul became a rebel. We have to bear in mind that every descendant of Adam, male or female, has in him or her the nature of a rebel. That is our biggest single problem. For that reason, it is not sufficient merely to have our sins forgiven, though that is wonderful. But the rebel has to be put to death, and that is part of the provision of the gospel.

Let me just look at two passages in Ephesians which deal with both of these conditions: the death of the spirit and the rebellion of the soul. In Ephesians 2:1-3, speaking to believers who have come alive in Christ, Paul says:

> And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, [They were not physically dead, but they were spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. And it was the new birth that brought them back to life. Then it says about these sins:] in which you once walked according to the course of this world. according to the prince of the power of the air [that's Satan], the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all [that includes the apostle Paul] once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

There is a picture of the whole human race in rebellion against God and, because of the rebellion, dead in trespasses and sins. That is the outcome of sin. The spirit dies; the soul becomes a rebel in rebellion against his Creator.

What happens to the body? It becomes what the Bible calls *corruptible*. That means it is subject to sickness, aging and ultimately death. But, as I pointed out, the death of Adam did not take place physically for more than 900 years. The death that Adam experienced when he disobeyed God was probably what the Bible would call the *first death*. Then the New Testament speaks of *the second death* (Revelation 20:6,14), which I believe is the final separation of the rebellious spirit and soul from God forever.

From Rebellion to Salvation

Now, what happens when we get saved? To our spirit? It is made alive. We have become alive again in spirit, in Christ. Let me read Ephesians 2:4-5:

> But God. who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus....

So, God made us alive. That is not all He did. We do not have time to analyze this, but He also resurrected us, and then He enthroned us. All that is in the past tense. So, if we can accept it,

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spiritually we are seated with Christ upon the throne. But the thing that I want to emphasize now is: we have been made alive!

Now, the soul, through repentance, is reconciled to God. It is very important to emphasize repentance. A rebel cannot be reconciled to God as long as he remains a rebel. So one of the things that is involved in salvation is that **we lay down our rebellion**. Lots of people who claim to be born again and saved have, in actual fact, never renounced their rebellion. They have an outward form of Christianity, but the inner reality is not there. Let us look in Romans chapter 5 for a moment. Romans 5:1:

> Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ....

We were at war with God. Now we have been justified by faith - we have peace with God. Then in verse 11 it says:

> And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

We were at war with God; we have been reconciled.

Then, what happens to the body through salvation? It becomes a temple for the Holy Spirit. I think this is very important. A lot of believers do not realize that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and that we have to treat them with reverence. In I Corinthians 6:19-20 Paul begins, *Do you not know ... ?* a phrase that he must use at least a half a dozen times. My observation is that every time he says, *Do you not know ...?* most Christians do not know.

> Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price: therefore glorify God in your body ...

Let us sum up what happens at salvation:

Our spirit is made alive.
Our soul is reconciled with God
And our body is made a temple for the Holy Spirit and also becomes eligible for the first resurrection.

In Philippians 3:10-11 Paul says that our body is made eligible for the first resurrection and that this is the goal of his Christian life:

> ... that I may know Him [that is, Jesus] and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

The word used means the *out-resurrection*, not the final, complete resurrection, but the resurrection which is only of true believers. I am always impressed by the fact that Paul did not take it for granted. He said, "My purpose is so to live that I may qualify for the first resurrection." I really do not believe we can take it for granted. It depends on how we live,

Now, what are the functions of these three elements? First of all, the spirit. The spirit is capable of direct communion with God and worship. It is the part of man that originated from God and can return to God in fellowship and worship. This is stated in 1 Corinthians 6:17, a very important verse:

> But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

In my opinion, it would be completely incorrect to say *one soul*. It is *one spirit*. If you take that in its context, Paul is talking about a man being joined to a prostitute and he says that is a physical union, but what he is talking about is a spiritual union. If you take that picture, it becomes clear that it is a very real union. But it is only the spirit that can be united with God. The soul cannot, the body cannot. Because of that, the spirit, and the spirit alone, I believe, is capable of true worship. In John 4:23-24 Jesus says:

> "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. [That to me is a staggering statement. Almighty God, who created the universe, is looking for people who will worship Him. And then it says:] God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

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The spirit is the element in us which is capable of worship. The soul is capable of praise and thanksgiving. But only the spirit, I believe, can offer to God the worship which is acceptable.

What happens to the soul? The soul is the decision-making element, and through regeneration, the soul is able to make right decisions. David said in Psalm 103: *Bless the Lord, 0 my soul.* He was talking to his soul. What part of him was talking to his soul? His spirit! His spirit sensed the need to bless the Lord, but his spirit could not do it until his soul activated his body. So the spirit in this present creation moves upon the body through the soul. We will come back to that in a moment because the New Testament speaks about a *soulish* body and a *spiritual* body.

To take a very crude example. I think the soul is like the gear lever in the car. You sit in the driver's seat, switch on the engine, but to get the car moving, you have to use the gear lever. The gear lever is the soul. The spirit is there, but it can not move the car without the soul.

My purpose in all of this is to come to the place where we can distinguish between the spirit and the soul, but that is not easy. In fact, there is only one way we can do it effectively, which we find in Hebrews 4:12:

> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Notice the word *even*. The Word of God is the only instrument which is sensitive enough and sharp enough to penetrate, to divide, between soul and spirit. In no other way can we understand the different functions of soul and spirit, and the relationship between them, except by the Word of God. You cannot rely on your own understanding, your own feelings. They are not reliable. The only reliable discerner is the Word of God. But, to use the Word of God as a discerner, two conditions are set. They are found in Hebrews 5:13-14, where the writer is talking about the difference between mature and immature Christians.

> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. [Those who can only feed on milk are still babies. Then he goes on to say:] But solid food belongs to those who are of full age [or who are mature], that is, those who by reason of use [but the margin says "practice"] have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

In other words, discernment is not something we can take for granted. It only comes by practice, and it only comes as we take in the whole counsel of God through His Word. If we are living like babies on milk, we do not have the ability to discern. If we have grown beyond that, we still cannot discern unless we practice.

I would like to challenge you and ask you: Are you practicing discernment? I think I can say of myself that, to a certain measure, I do practice discernment. When I walk into a situation, I put up my "spiritual antennae" and I ask myself, "What are the spiritual forces at work in this situation?" When I listen to a sermon, I not only listen to the words, I try to discern the spirit that is coming through the words.

But this only comes by practice. If you just walk around carelessly and casually, you will not have the ability to discern. I believe we need to practice discernment in every situation. I believe discernment should be as regular a part of our spiritual life as prayer. Otherwise, we will be in trouble.

Discerning Between Soul and Spirit

Now I want to talk about the difference between the spiritual and the soulish, which I will illustrate from the following table:

Language	Noun	Adjective
Greek	*pneuma*	*pneumatikos*
English	spirit	spiritual
Greek	*psuche*	*psuchikos*
English	soul	soulish

To understand this you have to go behind translations. I will try to explain why. In this table we have the Greek and then the English, the Greek and then the English. We have the noun and then

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the adjective. When you see them in writing, the relationship is obvious.

The Greek word for spirit is *pneuma*, from which we get the English word pneumatic - that is a drill that is operated by air. That is because *pneuma* means "breath," "wind" and "spirit." Now the adjective from *pneuma* is pneumatikos. How do we translate that into English? We know that *pneuma* is "spirit." Obviously, the English adjective from *pneuma* is ... what? *Spiritual*. That's right. There is no choice.

Now we come down to the Greek word for "soul," and here is the problem: the Greek word for soul is *psuche*, from which we get countless different words like *psychological* or *psychiatrist* or *psychosomatic*. A psychiatrist is a doctor of the soul, because *iatros* is the Greek word for doctor.

All right, we have *psuche* and the adjective is *psuchikos*. Now, there is no hesitation about the translation of the noun - it is "soul." But what about the adjective? The problem is that English does not have a word "soulish." I believe, therefore, that we have to create a word to translate the Bible correctly. According to my understanding, in German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian - in all those languages there is a word for "soulish." But English is limping along without the necessary word to convey this very important distinction.

Now I will take all the places in the New Testament where the word *psuchikos* or "soulish" is used and I will try to draw out the difference between *spiritual* and *soulish*.

First of all, we will take three cases where the word "soulish" is applied to the physical body, which is perhaps a little hard to understand. I looked at five translations, and I found various different words that are used in different versions to translate this word *psuchikos*. In the original King James they use "natural" or "sensual." In the New King James they also use "natural" or "sensual." But in the margin in the last case, they use "worldly." In the New American Standard they use "natural" and in the margin "unspiritual." and finally, "worldly minded." In the New International Version they use "without the spirit," "natural," "unspiritual," and then they use the phrase "follow their natural instinct." You see, then, that unless we get behind the English translations, we really cannot grasp this vital distinction between that which is spiritual and that which is soulish.

Now we will look at the three cases where *soulish* is applied to a body, in I Corinthians 15:44 (twice) and 46. 1 have never heard anybody else discuss this, but I will give you my understanding and you can accept it or reject it, as you see fit. But it is an exciting issue, because Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:44, referring to the resurrection: *It is sown a natural body [that is, a soulish body], it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural [soulish] body, and there is a spiritual body*. You will notice there is always the contrast between the soulish and the spiritual. There is a soulish body and there is a spiritual body.

Then in verse 46, Paul says: *However the spiritual is not first, but the natural [soulish], and afterward the spiritual*. So our present body is soulish; our resurrection body will be spiritual. I understand that means we will no longer need the "gear lever." Our spirit will simply decide where to go, what to say, what to do, and it will happen! It will be a body controlled by the spirit.

We do have, in Ezekiel chapter 1, a picture of some creatures which could be represented as having spiritual bodies. To me, this is exciting, because in the resurrection we will have a body like Jesus. We will just go where we want. No problems about dealing with the soul.

In Ezekiel 1:12, talking about the cherubs, it says, *Each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went*. They have spiritual bodies; they just go wherever the spirit wants to go. And in the same passage. in verse 20: *Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went*.

So, this is how I understand it. A spiritual body is a body which is directly motivated and controlled by the spirit. It is like a car in which you just switch on the engine and it goes wherever you want, at whatever speed. You don't have to bother with the gear lever.

Those are the three cases where the word *psuchikos* is used of a body. No English translation that I know of uses the word *soulish*. Consequently, the distinction is obscured.

Now, let us look at the other places where this word *psuchikos* is used. Here we come to a point where there is a clear conflict between the soulish and the spiritual. I Corinthians 2:14-15:

> But the natural man [but it's the soulish man] does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged by no one.

So, the *soulish* man is not in harmony with the Spirit. He cannot receive the things of the Spirit; he cannot understand them. You can talk to the most highly-educated intellects and they have no

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ability whatever to understand the things of the Spirit, because they are operating in the realm of the soul. This is important because it brings out that there is, in a certain sense, an opposition between the *spiritual* and the *soulish*

Then we go on to the epistle of Jude, verse 19, which is a rather illuminating verse. Talking about people who have made trouble in the church, the NKJ says: *These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit* [capital "s"]. But very obviously, they are part of the church because they cause division. So we have in the church both those who are spiritual and those who are soulish.

From Earthly to Soulish to Demonic

Then, the most significant passage of all is James 3:15, which I will deal with at length. Talking about a certain kind of wisdom, James says:

> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

By now, you have arrived at the conclusion that *sensual* is *soulish*. So there is a kind of wisdom that is soulish. And there is a decline, descending in three stages: first, earthly; second, soulish; third, demonic. I believe this is the main way in which demons get in to the work of God ... the people of God ... the church of God. It is through this decline from the earthly to the soulish to the demonic.

Now let us consider what is implied. What does it mean to be *earthly*? For a Christian I believe it means our vision is completely limited to this earth. We cannot see beyond this earth. All we are expecting from God through salvation are things that belong to this life: prosperity, healing, success, power - who knows what? I believe all of that is soulish.

I will take a few examples of people who were not earthly. You can find a whole list of them in Hebrews 11. In fact, you could really sum up the saints of Hebrews 11 as those who were not soulish, who were not earthly. Here are just two examples.

In Hebrews 11:9-10, speaking about Abraham, it says:

> By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham was in the Promised Land, he knew it was promised to him, but he did not own it and he never lived there as if he owned it. He never bought a house. He always lived in a tent, which is something movable. Note the contrast with Lot, who separated from Abraham and turned his face toward Sodom - the men of Sodom were sinners before the Lord, and exceedingly wicked - and he went where his face was turned. So the next time you read about Lot, he is not just looking toward Sodom, he is in Sodom, and he is living in a house - no longer in a tent. I think Lot, in a sense, is a type of the earthly man of God.

But Abraham had a vision which extended beyond time into eternity. He was waiting for a city that he had never seen but he knew one day it would be his home. I think that is how God expects us to be as Christians. We are not at home in this world. When we become at home in this world, we become soulish.

My second example is Moses in Hebrews 11:27:

> By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Let me suggest to you that this is the key to endurance. It is looking beyond time, looking beyond the level of this life where we often will have a very hard time, many frustrations, many disappointments. What will cause us to endure? A vision that takes us beyond time.

There are many other examples. Those two are just examples - Abraham and Moses - of people who were not earthly. Then there is also a remarkable statement by Paul which we would do well to ponder in 1 Corinthians 15:19:

> If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable [or the most to be pitied.

That is a very remarkable statement. If all our Christian faith provides for us is things in this life,

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we are pitiable, we are to be pitied. And I have to say, I want to say it graciously, there is a good deal of teaching in the church which only focuses on what God will do for us in this life. Such people often consider themselves prosperous and successful; God considers them pitiable.

This is a very, very basic truth. Christians of previous generations - up to World War I - were basically conscious of this fact: the world is not our home. But since that time, many, many Christians have lost this perception and live as if we really belonged here. Our thoughts and our ambitions and our plans are focused on the things of time. We are earthly.

When we become earthly, what is the next step down? Soulish. What is the essence of the soul? The ego. What is it to be soulish? It is to be ego-centric; to be absolutely concerned with number one, as they say. The soulish person says, "What's in this for me?" The spiritual person says, "How can I glorify God?" I think you will agree - I hope I am not being cynical - there is a great deal of soulishness in the contemporary church, defined this way.

Then the soulish opens up for the demonic. When you get into the realm of the soulish, you are exposed to the demonic. This, I believe, is primarily what permits demons to infiltrate the people of God, the work of God. A little later I will give you five examples of what has happened in this century.

Let us consider for a moment two Old Testament patterns of people who moved out of the earthly into the soulish and from the soulish to the demonic. They were very distinguished people. The first one is Aaron. If you turn to Exodus 32, you will find something that always astonishes me. Here was the anointed and appointed High Priest making a golden calf. I want to analyze what it says in Exodus 32:1-10.

Moses at this time is up on the mountain. They have not seen him for something like forty days. So it says:

> Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

The very significant phrase there is "the *man* who brought us up out of the land of Egypt." They had lost sight of God. They were focusing on human leaders. And I believe, almost inevitably, that will lead to idolatry. When we lose our vision of God and focus on God's servants we are in great danger. So,

> Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, 0 Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"
>
> So when Aaron saw it [this is an amazing description - when Aaron saw his own calf], he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord" [to Yahweh. I mean, I find it hard to understand how Aaron could do that. But if Aaron could do it, you and I can do it. We are no better than Aaron. Probably most of us are not nearly of his caliber.
>
> Then it says:] Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

That is the essence of idolatry: play. When our worship becomes play, we have moved out of the spiritual into the soulish and, ultimately, into the demonic. I do not want to appear critical, but I have to say, to my understanding, most of what is called worship in the Charismatic movement is not worship at all. Often it is very self-centered: "God heal me. God bless me. God, make me feel good. God do this and God do that." It is ego-centric; it is soulish. Only the spirit can focus directly on God.

Much of the music that we have in church today appeals to the soul, stimulates the soul, It is very much the same kind of music as is used in the world to stimulate the soul.

I am no expert in music, absolutely not at all. I cannot sing a note in tune. But I have a certain sensitivity to the impact of music. Having lived five years in Africa, I am aware that certain repetitive themes and rhythms can deaden your sensitivity. If you sit under that long enough, especially when it is very loud, you lose the capacity to discern. And in Africa those rhythms are used to call up demons.

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What is amazing about the scene of Israel's idolatry here described is the total difference between the attitude of the people when God spoke from heaven and their attitude perhaps two months later. There had been the most amazing shift. In Exodus 20 when they had a unique revelation from God such as no other nation has ever had, their response was awe. fear, reverence. In Exodus 20:18-21, after God had pronounced the Ten Commandments from the mountain:

> Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

They were so impressed by the holiness and the majesty of God that they said, "Moses, we can't listen to that voice any more. Will you please hear for us and we'll listen to what you say to us." Yet in less than two months, they had come from that attitude to the place where they wanted a golden calf to worship, where they saw not God, but Moses, as the person who had brought them out of Egypt.

Paul takes this up in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 10:5-7. Speaking about the experiences of Israel when they came out of Egypt, Paul says:

> But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

What had happened? Their physical needs had been met. Their stomachs were full, their bodies were warmly clothed, so, what next? Well, let's have a little excitement! Let's play! I am so concerned when worship becomes play. And today much of it is. Worship has nothing to do with entertainment. Entertainment says, "Excite me. Thrill me. Satisfy me." That is all for the benefit of the soul. The spirit is excluded.

My second example of the transition from the spiritual to the soulish to the demonic is even more frightening. You will find it in Leviticus 9:23 - 10:2. This is a glorious moment. The people had done everything that God required in the form of sacrifices, and, when their obedience was complete, God sent His glory and burned up the sacrifice on the altar.

> And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces. [A manifest demonstration of God's glory and a fire that actually consumed the sacrifice on the altar. Now, the next two verses are some of the most tragic in the Bible:]
>
> Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron [and Nadab was the eldest son - he was scheduled to become high priest in place of Aaron] . . . Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

The same fire that consumed the sacrifice burned up the worshipers! What is "profane fire"? I understand it is fire that is not taken from the altar that God has commanded. What is "profane fire" in our experience? I would say it is worship in any spirit other than the Holy Spirit. And the penalty was death.

We read in Numbers 16:1-35 about an insurrection against Moses in the wilderness when some of the leaders took 250 censers, filled them with fire and said, "We're just as good as Aaron. We've got as much right to be priests as he has." And Moses said, "All right. We'll try this out." He told them to assemble with their censers with fire in them. Then the fire of the Lord came out and consumed 250 men. The lesson for me is this: You are responsible for what is in your censer. You are responsible for the spirit in which you approach God.

I am not saying that you will be consumed with fire, but God's judgments are often exemplary. In other words, God did not judge every city where there was homosexuality as He judged Sodom and Gomorrah. But His judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah was exemplary: it showed forever God's estimate of homosexuality.

Again, when Ananias and Sapphira tried to cheat the Lord with their offering, they both died -

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because they claimed to be giving God more than they actually were. Not everybody who does that dies. I think if that happened, there would be fewer people in the church. But God's estimate of it never changes.

Here we have this demonstration of the danger of approaching God with what is called "profane fire": any spirit that is not the Holy Spirit. This has become so very real to me.

Now, let us turn to Hebrews and see the New Testament application. (You know, one of our problems is that we often read the Epistles as if they were written to unbelievers. They were not. They were written to Christians.) Hebrews 12:28-29:

> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

The NIV uses the word "awe." I ask myself, and I ask you: How much awe do you find in the church today? How many meetings do you go to where there is a sense of the awesome presence of God?

When we were in Britain last summer, I encountered a minister friend who made this comment: "I meet people who talk about God as if He were someone they'd met in the pub." We have got this buddy-buddy relationship with Jesus. He does invite us for fellowship, for communion, but we must never, never lose our sense of awe. I think that is the root of the problems we have been talking about.

To go back for a moment to the contemporary spiritual movements I have been describing. I could easily believe that somewhere in the beginning there was a genuine spontaneous move of the Holy Spirit. Part of what comes out is the Holy Spirit, but it has become mixed. Some things are from God, but others are not.

Why? What is the problem? My answer is **soulishness**: an undiscerned downward slide from a focus on God to a focus on self, from objective scriptural truth to subjective personal experience.

All too often a sense of awe and reverence for the holiness of God has been replaced by unscriptural frivolity and flippancy. In fact, I would say that flippancy has become an epidemic disease in the contemporary Charismatic movement. If we have been guilty of it, we need to repent.

God has convicted me more than once of being flippant. I have confessed it as a sin and repented. We have to set a watch on our tongues.

Charles Finney once commented, "God never uses a jester to search consciences." One characteristic ministry of the Holy Spirit is to *convict of sin, and of righteousness. and of judgment* (John 16:8). Where people remain unconvicted of sin, we must question whether the Holy Spirit is at Work.

Is There a Way to Protect Ourselves?

Has God provided any protection against this kind of error? Yes! But first we must understand that error primarily attacks the area of the soul - though the spirit may also be affected later. It is the soul, therefore, that must be protected.

The protection which God has provided for the soul has one unique and all-sufficient basis: **the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross**.

In Matthew 16:24-25 Jesus says:

> "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life [literally, soul] will lose it, and whoever loses his life [literally, soul] for My sake will find it."

Here is the divine paradox: to save (protect) our soul we must lose it.

Before we can follow Jesus, there are two preliminary steps. First, we must deny ourself; we must say a resolute and final "No!" to our demanding, self-seeking ego. Second, we must take up our cross. We must accept the sentence of death which the cross imposes on us. Taking up our cross is a voluntary decision that each of us must make. God does not forcefully impose the cross upon us.

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If we do not apply the cross personally in our own life, we leave a door open to demonic influence. There is always the danger that our uncrucified ego will respond to the seductive flatteries of deceiving demons. Pride is the main area in our character which Satan targets and flattery is the main lever he uses to gain entrance.

We must each apply the cross personally to ourselves. In Galatians 2:20 Paul says, *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live....* We each need to ask: Is that true of me? Have I really been crucified with Christ? Or am I still motivated by my soulish ego?

Many Christians today would feel that this solution is too radical. They would question whether this is really the only way to be secure from deception. They tend to regard Paul as some kind of "super saint" whom they could never hope to imitate.

Paul, however, does not see himself this way. His ministry as an apostle was unique, but his personal relationship with Christ was a pattern for all to follow.

In 1 Timothy 1:16 he says:

> However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Again, in 1 Corinthians 11:1 he says, *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

The only alternative to the cross is to put self in the place of Christ. But this is idolatry and opens the way for the evil consequences that invariably follow idolatry.

The cross is the heart and center of the Christian faith. Without the cross proclaimed and applied, Christianity is left without a foundation and its claims are no longer valid. It has become, in fact, a false religion. As such - like all false religions - it is inevitably exposed to demonic infiltration and deception.

Five Movements that Went Astray

So now, having said that much, let me give you five examples of movements within the Charismatic movement that have all gone the same way. In some way or other I have had some kind of association with each of them.

Going back to the period shortly after World War II: in Canada, there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Saskatchewan which came to be called the "Latter Rain." It made a very powerful impact, and a lot of people went from different areas of North America to Saskatchewan. I would say the essence of this movement was a full restoration of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Later I knew a man who was a president of the Full Gospel Businessmen in Chicago, a fine Christian. He described what happened to him when he went there. He said the meetings lasted nine hours, and they were so exciting that he didn't even want to get up and go to the bathroom. But what happened? The leader became proud, self-assertive, and fell into immorality and thereby discredited the gifts of the Spirit.

Later on, from 1957-1962, I was a missionary with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada - dear people, but practically no exercise of spiritual gifts at all. So one day I said to them, "Why don't we ever exercise spiritual gifts?" The answer was, "The 'Latter Rain' had them." In other words, that has made it impossible for us; we might go the same way. You see, one of Satan's tactics is to discredit that which is good by its misuse.

Then there was the "Manifested Sons" - I'm sure some of you can remember these. They were a very powerful group of men who took the Scripture that all creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. They had a really powerful ministry, particularly in casting out demons. But, in casting out demons, they entered into long conversations with demons and sought revelation from them. I believe it is totally wrong ever to seek revelation from demons.

They ended up with an exaggerated theology which said some of them had already received their resurrection bodies. The next thing that happened was two of them were killed in an airplane crash. So God said, "Where's your resurrection body now?" But they were fine men at the first.

Then there were the "Children of God." How many of you have heard of the "Children of God"? Later they changed their name to "The Family." A woman named Linda Meisner exercised a powerful ministry among them. I had two or three encounters with her. She was a very dedicated, powerful

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woman and she had a great burden for the young people of America. But when she was taken over by pride, she became manipulative and dominating. Many of the young people in the "Children of God" came under her control. She cut them off from their relationship with their parents and their families and it became a disaster. But I believe that when she started she was right.

Then there was William Branham. I had a little association with William Branham at the closing period of his ministry. I was on the same platform with him two or three times with the Full Gospel Businessmen. William Branham had, in some ways, one of the most remarkable ministries that I know of. He was a very gentle, humble, loving man. His ministry of the word of knowledge was absolutely legendary. No one ever heard Branham give one false word of knowledge.

I was with him in a meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. He was on the platform and he picked out a woman in the audience and he said, "Now, you're not here for yourself. You're here for your grandson." And then he told her her name and her exact street address in New York City. They were about 2,000 miles away from New York City at the time.

Unfortunately, after exercising his gift two or three times, he just collapsed and his men came and gathered him up and carried him away. He explained that by the statement of Jesus that "power has gone out of Me." But Jesus did not collapse. I do not believe that was the Holy Spirit. I believe it was demonic.

Later on I was close friends with Ern Baxter who was, for quite a considerable period, the Bible teacher in Branham's evangelistic meetings. Ern loved Branham dearly, but his heart was broken over what happened. One day he gathered a small group of us and said, "I want to tell you about Branham. I don't want you to talk to anybody about it, I just want you to know."

Now, since all the people concerned have passed from the stage of time, I feel free to share what Ern said about Branham. He said, "Branham had two spirits; one was the Spirit of God, one was not." At one point they were together and Branham pointed to a light bulb hanging from the ceiling and said, "The power I have can make that bulb move."

I believe Branham remained in Christ to the very end, but he was taken over by people who wanted to exploit him. Although he did not call himself "Elijah," he permitted his followers to do so. He was killed through an automobile crash when his car was run into by a drunk driver. His followers embalmed his body to keep him there until Easter Sunday, being convinced that he would be resurrected. He was not.

When he was in the Spirit, under the anointing, he was almost unchallengeable. At one time, a demonized man came to attack him in a meeting. Branham commanded the man to kneel down and stay there until he finished his message. The man stayed kneeling in the same posture for the whole period of Branham's sermon. But I would have to say his end was ... perhaps the best you could say, disappointing.

And then we have "Discipleship" - or the "Shepherding Movement." Now, I was personally, closely involved and I can tell you that it began with a supernatural intervention of God. I was there when it happened. Three other preachers besides myself - Bob Mumford, Charles Simpson, and Don Basham and I - were all speaking in a convention. In the middle of it we discovered that the man who was leading and organizing the convention was an actively practicing homosexual. So we thought, "What are we to do about this?" We agreed to meet together in someone's room in the motel - not my room. The four of us knelt down and prayed and when we stood up we all knew, without any process of reasoning, without praying for it, without even wanting it - that God had joined us together.

Yet, in spite of that, I don't think the thing went a year before it started to go off. This is my personal impression: the problem was primarily personal ambition ... in different forms. One wanted to be the leader of a movement, another wanted to appear on a platform, etc., and I was one of them. From my experience I would say there is no greater problem in the church today than personal ambition in the ministry.

Another problem was that we were not renewed in our minds. We still thought in the old church categories. Everybody who disliked us said, "Well, you're really a denomination." Our leader said, "Oh, no. We're not a denomination. We never will be." But the logic of spiritual principles is inexorable. He and his group have become a denomination.

Our root problem was that we were not renewed in our minds. We still thought in the terms of the way the church traditionally does things. And I do not believe the church does things right. I believe there has to be a revolution in our thinking before we can line up with God's purposes.

Let me just list these five examples:

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The Latter Rain
The Manifested Sons
The Children of God
William Branham
The Discipleship/Shepherding Movement

Finally, let me point out two elements that were common, I think, to all these movements. Number One: Pride. Pride is the most dangerous of all sins, in my opinion. I heard a fellow preacher say once, "Pride is the only sin about which the devil will not make you feel guilty." Proverbs 16:18, a very short little verse:

> Pride goes before destruction,
> And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Now, you will notice that people usually say, "Pride goes before a fall." That is not what the Bible says. The Bible says, "Pride goes before destruction." So, turn around! Do not continue in that way. Because the end of it is destruction. And I am talking to myself as much as to you.

The second feature which I believe was common to all five was what I have already spoken about: a mixture of spirits. There was truth and there was error. There was the Holy Spirit and there were other spirits. And the way the other spirits got in was through a downward slide: from the earthly, to the soulish, to the demonic.

Remember, the soulish is essentially self-centered. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Paul describes what the condition of humanity will be like at the close of this age, and I believe we are living in that time. He lists eighteen sins or moral blemishes:

> But know this [and that's the only time I can recall that Paul was so emphatic. He says, now be absolutely sure of this ...], that in the last days perilous times will come....

The Greek word translated *perilous* is only used in one other place, in Matthew 8:28, where it describes two demonized men who came against Jesus. And notice the English word there: *fierce*. So, there are going to be *fierce* times, and they are here! You can pray as much as you like, but you cannot change it. Because God says, *Know this ... there will be fierce times*. You cannot change it, but you can ask God to prepare you for it.

Then Paul gives a list of these eighteen moral blemishes:

> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God....

Notice, it begins and ends with the things that people love. Love of self, love of money and love of pleasure. But I want to point out to you: the root of it all is the love of self. That is what lets evil in. Soulishness. Being focused on **me**. What is God going to do for **me**? What do **I** get out of this?

And then it goes on in verse 5:

> ... having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

So these people, with these eighteen horrible moral conditions, have a *form of godliness*. They are not unbelievers; they are not atheists. I do not believe, myself, that Paul would ever use the word *godliness* outside the Christian context. So these are professing Christians. And what is the problem? **Self love**. Self-love is what opens the way to every one of these other problems. Self-centeredness. That leads in turn to mixture.

Just one more thing and we close. The way that mixture works is this: it causes confusion and then division. Because some of what is provided is good, some is bad. Some is truth and some is error.

This means there are two ways people can respond: some people will focus on the error and reject the truth; others will focus on the truth and accept the error. And therefore there comes confusion - and out of the confusion, division. People become aggressively committed to one or other of the alternatives. What causes it? Mixture. We cannot afford to tolerate mixture.

What is the answer to mixture? Truth! The pure, undiluted truth of God's Word!

It happened once in the U.S.A. that I was the only witness to an accident in the street outside our home. As a result, I was required to testify in court.

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Before I gave my testimony, I was required to affirm that I would speak *the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*.

That was the standard set by a secular court. How much more should we, as Christians, take our stand for **the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!**

Chapter 3: Four Safeguards

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Derek Prince was educated in Britain at Eton and King's College, Cambridge. Later he held a Fellowship in Philosophy at King's.

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| Return to top |

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Protection From Deception

Navigating Through The Minefield Of Signs And Wonders

by Derek Prince

Based on a series of talks given by Derek Prince to his coworkers in Derek Prince Ministries in March 1996

Chapter 3

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Let Us Honor God's Holy Spirit
Signs and Wonders Do Not Determine Truth
Mixture Produces Confusion and Division
The Identity of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 2: Earthly, Soulish, Demonic
Understanding the Human Personality
From Rebellion to Salvation
Discerning Between Soul and Spirit
From Earthly to Soulish to Demonic
Is There a Way to Protect Ourselves?
Five Movements that Went Astray

Chapter 3: Four Safeguards
No. 1: Humble Ourselves
No. 2: Receive the Love of the Truth
No. 3: Cultivate The Fear of the Lord
No. 4: Make and Keep the Cross Central

Four Safeguards

Our proclamation this time is the last three verses of Psalm 19:

> Who can understand his errors?
> Cleanse me from secret faults.
> Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;
> Let them not have dominion over me.
> Then I shall be blameless,
> And I shall be innocent of great transgression.
> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
> Be acceptable in Your sight,
> 0 Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

In the first session I described what I consider to be a serious problem, and in the second, I sought to give a scriptural explanation of how the problem arises. In this final session I want to offer four scriptural safeguards to protect us from such problems.

No. 1: Humble Ourselves

The first safeguard is contained in 1 Peter 5:5b-6

> *"God resists the proud,*
> *But gives grace to the humble."*

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> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. . . .

I believe the first essential requirement is that we **humble ourselves**. The Bible says, *God resists the proud*. So, if we are trying to come into the presence of God but we are proud, we may push but He pushes against us - and He pushes harder than we can. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God will make us humble. God always puts the responsibility upon us to humble ourselves. It is a decision we have to make. No one can make it for us. People can pray for us and preach to us, but we have to make the decision to *humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt us in due time*.

I have already said that I believe pride is the greatest single problem, the most common problem and the most destructive problem. We saw earlier that *pride goes before destruction*. If we do not turn back from the way of pride, our end will be destruction. However, I find a very helpful and inspiring passage in Psalm 25:8-9:

> Good and upright is the Lord;
> Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.
> The humble He guides in justice.
> And the humble He teaches His way.

It is the grace of the Lord that He is willing to teach us sinners at all. But God enrolls His students, not by their intellectual qualifications, but by their character. A lot of people may go to a Bible school or a seminary, or whatever else, but never be enrolled in God's school, because God only enrolls the humble. *The humble He guides in justice ... the humble He teaches His way*.

The King James says, *the meek*. I find that *meek* has dropped out of the modern translations. What is the difference between *humble* and *meek*? As I see it, *humble* describes your inner attitude; *meek* describes the way you express it. Perhaps we do not need the word *meek* very much nowadays because there are very few people to whom it applies! There is usually a reason when words drop out of contemporary usage.

No. 2: Receive the Love of the Truth

The next safeguard is in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12:

> The coming of the lawless one [the antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders ...

So bear in mind that Satan is capable of producing power and signs and wonders. I have frequently commented that one obvious place for the antichrist to arise would be in the Charismatic movement, because most Charismatics seem to think that anything supernatural must be from God. That is not so. Satan is capable of great supernatural signs and wonders. So how do we protect ourselves? It goes on:

> ... and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish. because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

So, what is our protection against deception? ***Receiving the love of the truth.*** And again, it is something we must do for ourselves. God will offer it to us; we have to receive it.

Now, of those who do not receive the love of the truth, God says this:

> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

That is a frightening verse. *God will send them strong delusion.* If God sends you strong delusion, you will be deluded!

In 1994 - this is a personal, subjective comment - in Jerusalem I got up one night to go to the bathroom and as I was walking back to my bed, God impressed upon my mind, very clearly, that He had sent strong delusion to the Israeli government then in power (elected in 1992). I think everything that has happened since amply confirms that. It is a very significant statement because, if God has sent strong delusion, it is useless to pray for such people not to be deluded.

In such a situation there are two ways that we can pray. First, that God will work through the

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delusion to accomplish His purposes. (In the outcome, it seems that one purpose was to set aside that government.) Second, that God will protect us from coming under the delusion ourselves.

There are two words that are used in a soulish way to manipulate people: one is *peace*; the other is *love*. So, the people of the Middle East, and I think probably the people of the world, are being manipulated by the offer of peace. By implication, if you are against that, you are wicked. Obviously, anybody who is against peace is a bad person. So you will feel guilty if you do not go along with it.

But there are conditions for peace. In Isaiah 48:22 the prophet says, *There is no peace for the wicked*. And Romans 14:17 says, *The kingdom of God ... is righteousness, peace and joy....* You cannot have peace apart from righteousness. I meet many Christians who are seeking for joy. But if they do not meet the condition of righteousness, joy is not available to them. Politicians who use the word *peace* to manipulate people are deceiving them, because peace will not come to the unrighteous.

The other manipulating word is *love*, which is used in the church. They talk a lot about the love of God: be loving, God is so loving, He is so kind. That is all true, but God is also a very strict God. I have personally come to this conclusion (on the basis of my own experience and observation of people close to me): you cannot get away with anything with God. Nothing! You may think you have gotten away with it, and God may indeed forgive you, but you may still have to face the consequences. You see, God forgives but He does not automatically release us from all the consequences of what we have done.

So don't have any sentimental picture of God. He is not a Father Christmas, doling out candy to little children. He is very just, very righteous, very loving - but, in a sense, very severe. You cannot get away with anything with God. It is better not to try!

I feel that love is being used to manipulate people at the present time. People are talking about the love of God and God is so loving - and it is all true. But God's love is expressed in surprising ways. As I quoted earlier, Jesus said to the church at Laodicea, *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten*. "That is love. God is our Father and He loves us, but He also disciplines us.

There are two wrong ways of responding to the discipline of God. We will look in Hebrews 12:5-7 for a moment. This is addressed to Christians:

> You have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:
>
> > *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,*
> > *Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*
> > *For whom the Lord loves He chastens,*
> > *And scourges every son whom He receives.*
>
> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

There are two wrong ways of responding to God's chastening. First we are warned: *Do not despise the chastening of the Lord*. Do not just shrug your shoulder and say, "Well, so what?" My observation is that many Christians who have become mature do not believe that God will discipline them any longer. The truth is He never stops disciplining.

This was brought home to me so vividly when I was reading the account of Moses. At the age of eighty, God chose him, commissioned him to be the deliverer of Israel from Egypt and sent him back to Egypt. But on the way, the Lord met him and tried to kill him (Exodus 4:24-26). Extraordinary!

Why? Because he had not circumcised his son. He had disobeyed the sign of the covenant that God had made with Abraham and his descendants. So God would rather have seen Moses die than go through with his ministry in disobedience. Sometimes we say, "Satan is resisting me." But often the truth of the matter is, it is not Satan, it is God. *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble* (1 Peter 5:5b).

The other wrong reaction is to be *discouraged* when you are rebuked by Him. Don't say, "This is more than I can take. God, why do You let this happen to me? I can't stand this! I'm not going to take it." Those are the two wrong reactions: to despise chastening or to be discouraged.

What about the love of the truth? The Greek word for love there is the one we're all familiar with: *agape*. It is a very strong word. It is the strongest word for love in the Greek language. It does not

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mean just reading your Bible every morning, or going to church and listening to sermons. It is a passionate commitment to the truth of God. That is what we must cultivate if we are to escape delusion. *God will send strong delusion to those who have not received the [agape] love of the truth.* That means more than just having a "quiet time" or reading your Bible at weekends. It is a passionate commitment to the truth of God.

I think I can say, without being boastful, God has given me that. I think God has given me a passionate commitment to the truth. Every time I hear anything that I do not feel is truth, there is something in me that rises up. God can do that for you, too, but you have to let Him do it. That is the second safeguard: *receive the love of the truth*.

No. 3: Cultivate the Fear of the Lord

The third safeguard is to **cultivate the fear of the Lord**. Many Christians say there is no more fear in the Christian life, but that is not true. Certain kinds of fear are excluded, but not all. I will give you a list of Scriptures that Ruth and I have memorized: at least a dozen different passages about the fear of the Lord. The promises are so exciting that I cannot understand why anybody would not want the fear of the Lord.

Here are some of them. Psalm 34:11-14:

> Come, you children, listen to me;
> I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
> Who is the man who desires life,
> And loves many days, that he may see good?
> Keep your tongue from evil,
> And your lips from speaking deceit.
> Depart from evil and do good;
> Seek peace and pursue it.

The implication is that the fear of the Lord will cause God to give you many days of good life. What is the first area that God deals with? The tongue. *Keep your tongue from evil ... your lips from speaking deceit.*

Psalm 19:9:

> The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever ...

The fear of the Lord will never cease; it endures forever.

Job 28:28:

> Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,
> And to depart from evil is understanding.

Notice that the primary requirement for wisdom and understanding is not intellectual, it is moral. It is to *depart from evil*. There are many clever fools around.

Proverbs 8:13:

> The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
> Pride and arrogance and the evil way
> And the perverse mouth I hate.

Notice, you cannot be neutral about evil if you have the fear of the Lord; you have to hate it. And what is the first thing you hate? *Pride. Arrogance.*

Proverbs 9:10-11:

> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
> And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
> For by me your days will be multiplied,
> And years of life will be added to you.

So, you want a long life? Cultivate the *fear of the Lord*. However, it is not enough to live long; it is possible to live long in misery. But *in the fear of the Lord*, God offers us a long and blessed life.

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Proverbs 14:26, 27:

> In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence,
> And His children will have a place of refuge.

So the fear of the Lord does not make you timid, it gives you *strong confidence*. And it provides a *place of refuge* for your children, which in these days, I think, is very important. And the next verse says:

> The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life,
> To avoid the snares of death.

That is a very vivid picture. Satan has set *snares of death*. How can we avoid them? Through the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 19:23 is almost incredible. I can hardly believe it, but it is in the Bible:

> The fear of the Lord leads to life,
> And he who has it will abide in satisfaction;
> He will not be visited with evil.

How can you turn down a promise like that? *Abide in satisfaction. Not be visited with evil*. It doesn't necessarily mean you will have an easy life.

Proverbs 22:4:

> By humility and the fear of the LORD
> Are riches and honor and life.

You will find that at least 50 percent of the time the fear of the Lord is directly connected with life. It is one primary condition for a good life,

And then, I think, most important of all is the prophetic picture of Messiah in Isaiah 11:1-2.

> There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
> And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
> [All the New Testament Scriptures confirm that this is Jesus. Now, listen:]
> The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him;
> The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
> The Spirit of counsel and might,
> The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

It is interesting to see that the Spirit that rests on Jesus is sevenfold - seven is always the number of the Holy Spirit. It says in Revelation 4:5 that before the throne of God there are seven lamps of fire which are the seven Spirits of God.

Personally, I understand this passage in Isaiah to reveal to us the seven spirits of God. The first is the Spirit of the Lord: that is, the Spirit that speaks in the first person as God. Then they all come after that in pairs:

> the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
> the Spirit of counsel and might;
> the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

It is important to see that knowledge must be balanced by the fear of the Lord - because knowledge puffs up, but the fear of the Lord keeps us humble. It speaks volumes to me that the Spirit of the fear of the Lord was resting upon Jesus. Though He was the Son of God, He had the fear of the Lord; it rested upon Him. It never lifted from Him.

Continuing with the fear of the Lord: the fear of the Lord is a counterbalance to joy. It is very important that when we get excited we are anchored by the fear of the Lord. Again, I consider this a tremendous weakness in the Charismatic movement. People get all excited and happy, clap their hands, dance around - which is wonderful - but not without the fear of the Lord.

Psalm 2:11 says:

> Serve the Lord with fear,
> And rejoice with trembling.

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That may seem to be inconsistent, but it is the balance. You rejoice, but with trembling. You stand in awe while you are rejoicing. This is carried over into the New Testament where it describes the growth of the church in Acts 9:31:

> Then the churches [or the church] throughout all Judea, Galilee. and Samaria had peace and were edified [or built up]. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

Again, notice the balance: the Holy Spirit comforts us, but we have to walk in the fear of the Lord. We can be encouraged, we can be built up, but that must be balanced by the fear of the Lord.

You might say, "Well, Brother Prince. I've been redeemed. I'm a child of God. Surely I don't need to fear God any more." On the contrary, you should fear all the more because of the price that God paid to redeem you. That is stated in 1 Peter 1:17-19.

> And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work [and "each one" includes you and me], conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay [or sojourning] here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

So the very fact that we have been redeemed is the reason to pass the time of our sojourning here in fear - because God invested so much in us, He paid for us with the blood of Christ. This leaves no room for flippancy, which is really a denial of the fear of the Lord.

No. 4: Make and Keep the Cross Central

Now, the fourth and the final safeguard is: **make and keep the cross central**. I looked at the example of Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5:

> And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony [or the mystery] of God. [You have to bear in mind that in that culture the highest achievement was oratory. If you were anything, you were an excellent speaker. Otherwise you were probably despised. So Paul, when he says. "I laid aside excellent speech," in a sense was saying, "I'm not bowing to this culture."] For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

I pointed out in a previous meeting that God's strength is made perfect in weakness. When we have all the strength we need of our own, we no longer need God's strength. God has to bring us to the place where we do not have strength. I have seen this in my own experience in ministry continually. If God is going to use me in any significant way, He has to bring me to the place where I know I cannot do it; to the place where I know I am totally dependent upon Him, that I am weak. Then His strength is made perfect in my weakness.

Let me say something else in this connection: I have discovered that the opportunities to serve God seldom suit our convenience. Generally speaking, if God gives you an opportunity to serve Him, it will be inconvenient in some way. That is to test the sincerity of your motives.

But if we want God's strength manifested in our lives, in our ministry, in our congregations, we have to cultivate the fear of the Lord. We have to cultivate a sense of dependence, an acknowledgment of our total dependence upon God.

This is very personal, but every time before I preach I tell God, "I know I don't have the ability. I'm totally dependent upon You. If You don't anoint me, if You don't inspire me, if You don't strengthen me, I cannot do it." Every now and then, I may stand up to preach and forget to do that. Then mentally, in my mind, while I am preaching, I say, "Lord, please remember, I'm dependent upon You. I cannot do it in my own strength."

Then Paul goes on to say:

> And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The key to releasing the power of the Holy Spirit is to be focused on the cross. There is a hymn

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that says,

> When I survey the wondrous cross
> On which the Prince of Glory died
> My richest gain I count but loss
> And pour contempt on all my pride.

When we really see the cross, we have nothing to boast of.

It is interesting that the original version of that hymn, which was written by an Englishman, was:

> When I survey the wondrous cross
> Where the young Prince of Glory died.

The writer was pointing out that Jesus was cut off in His prime. He died in His very best age.

I believe one of our greatest needs is to focus on the cross. I have seen people become very ambitious, striving for success, wanting to build a large church or ministry. Sometimes they succeed, but unless the whole message is focused on the cross, they have only wood, hay and straw.

I am reminded of a well-known English preacher of a previous generation, Charles Spurgeon, a Baptist. He was continually emphasizing to his students the importance of focusing on the cross. One day he said something like this: "To preach the principles of the Christian life and make no mention of the cross is like a drill sergeant giving orders to a squad of soldiers who have no feet. They can hear his orders and understand him, but they lack the ability to carry them out. Remember, it is only through the cross that we get the ability to do what God tells us to do."

Now let us turn again to the first five verses of 1 Corinthians chapter 2. These have always been among my favorite verses because I came to the Lord sovereignly from a background of Greek philosophy. When Paul speaks about wisdom, as he does, he is talking about Greek philosophy, so I think I am particularly able to appreciate the impact of what he says about wisdom.

We need to understand when we read these verses that Paul is speaking about a certain part of his ministry journey. In Acts chapter 17, he was in Athens, which was the intellectual center, the university city, of the ancient world. There he preached a sermon unlike any other that is recorded. It was a somewhat intellectual sermon. He adapted himself to his audience and even quoted from a Greek poet (which I do not think he ever did at any other time). I wonder whether Paul was really led by the Holy Spirit. At any rate, the results were disappointing. Only a few people believed.

So, Paul went on to Corinth. Now, Corinth was a port city, somewhat like the major port cities of our present world - a very wicked city, where every kind of sin flourished. Somewhere between Athens and Corinth, Paul made a decision, which is recorded in these verses:

> And, I brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the mystery of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

So, Paul made a revolutionary decision. He would not preach the kind of message in Corinth that he preached in Athens. He said something here which, for a Jew, is remarkable. He said, *I determined not to know anything*. Basically, the Jews are people who know a lot and often their confidence is in what they know.

What an amazing statement! "I determined not to know anything. I'll forget everything I've ever learned at the feet of Gemaliel, in all my studies - forget it all! I'm only concerned with one thing: Jesus Christ - and not just with Jesus Christ, but with Jesus Christ crucified - that is the center and the focus of my message." And I believe it should be the center and the focus of our message. If we ever get away from the cross as central, we are in danger.

I notice that Paul expected the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power. I find today in our contemporary church, if you preach about power, everybody gets excited - and if you appeal for people who want to receive power, many will come forward. Personally, I believe this emphasis on power can be extremely dangerous. I have observed over a good many years that people who focus on power end in trouble. They often end in error.

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Power is something that appeals to the natural man. Some psychologists have said that the desire for power is the number one desire of the human personality. Paul said, "I want power, but I want it on a different basis from that which the world understands. I want to forget all my wisdom, all my knowledge, all my theological qualifications and I want to focus on only one thing: Jesus Christ crucified." And then he said, in effect, "When I do that, I can be sure that the Holy Spirit will come in power."

Now I will close with another of my favorite Scriptures, Galatians 6:14:

> God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Let me just recapitulate my four suggested safeguards:

Number 1: **Humble ourselves**. In that passage Peter says, *our adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour* (1 Peter 5:8). The devil is very powerful and very active. Any theology that tells you differently is a deception.

I was meditating on this yesterday evening. Suppose an announcement was made that a lion was loose on the ground floor of this hotel, and you needed to get out. I do not believe you would stroll through the lobby, humming a cheerful little chorus. You would be very circumspect in making your exit. And you would be very careful to close the door behind you.

That, I believe, is a picture of how we need to conduct ourselves, because our adversary, the devil, is walking about like a roaring lion. We cannot change that. But do you know why lions roar? It is to terrify their prey, to paralyze them. So, do not be paralyzed by the lion's roar. Be very cautious, but do not give way to fear.

Number 2: **Receive the love of the truth**.

Number 3: **Cultivate the fear of the Lord**.

Number 4: **Make and keep the cross central**.

Finally, let us quote Galatians 6:14 together. I don't expect you all to know it by heart, so I'll say it phrase by phrase, and you say it after me.

> **God forbid that I should boast / except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ / by whom the world is crucified to me / and I to the world. Amen.**

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Derek Prince was educated in Britain at Eton and King's College, Cambridge. Later he held a Fellowship in Philosophy at King's.

He now heads a ministry that provides Bible teaching material in many languages to 140 nations through books, audio and video cassettes, and radio and television broadcasts.

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| Return to top |

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Deliverance And Destiny

Catherine Brown
Ayrshire Scotland UK

"Exodus - Deliverance and Destiny" Part 1

Dear Gatekeepers,

“And it will be a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.” Exodus 13:16

As promised we are continuing our journey together to explore various facets of healing and all that it means to modern-day believers. Today I would like us to take a fresh look at the book of Exodus from the perspective of deliverance and destiny being intertwined in God’s heart for His people.

According to the dictionary ‘exodus’ means mass departure, migration, emigration, flight or evacuation. The Israelites could not avoid their ‘exodus’; it was a necessary part of their process of deliverance and healing under God’s mighty hand. They were delivered by the blood of Passover into a mass departure from enslavement to the Egyptians. In much the same way today, every child of God needs to embrace ‘exodus’ as a crucial element of God's plan of acceleration and release into the next stage of their Kingdom destiny. By this I mean we need to be willing to leave the past behind in order to step into the incredible potential and promises of our future with God.

Our broken hearts and shattered dreams need to be healed by Jesus just as much as broken bones and wasting diseases that need His miracle touch. Just like the Israelites we must learn to appropriate the blood of the Lamb, our Passover King, as we embrace our own personal exodus. We need only believe that Christ is truly who He says He is – the Saviour and Healer of all mankind and our personal Redeemer.

GOD’S PERSPECTIVE OF OUR BATTLE IS STRATEGICALLY BRILLIANT!

"Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert." (Exodus 14:3)

In effect God had created a smoke-screen as part of his battle strategy. By telling the Israelites to turn back and camp near Pi Hahiroth, it looked to Pharaoh and his army that God’s people were in total confusion and on the run. However, quite the opposite was true! God allowed His people to experience a wilderness but this difficult terrain was to become a springboard to ultimate deliverance from oppressive evil. A wilderness is a dry, barren environment with apparently little or no fruit; a place in which we may feel isolated and intimidated. Yet even when we don’t understand God’s plan for our lives we must realise that God’s perspective of the battle is strategically brilliant. He will ensure we are positioned for victory. Even when we walk through a wilderness season we can be confident our breakthrough is near. The devil will take us to the edge of hell, but God will bring us beyond the brink into Kingdom blessing.

On the other hand it is typical that the enemy of our souls will try and turn the tables on us and create his own smoke-screen in an attempt to convince God's children that they are oppressed, enslaved and in confusion. We must declare boldly that the devil is a liar and a thief. God’s perfect plan in Christ is to rescue and deliver us into total healing of body, mind, spirit and soul. As God directs our lives we will see the outworking of His mighty deliverance in every area of our lives and we will know the peace

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of Christ that surpasses all understanding. Peace produces a harvest of righteousness, and righteousness is a fruit of Heavenly wisdom at work in us.

WHEN GOD IS INITIATING CONFRONTATION WITH THE ENEMY HE EQUIPS HIS PEOPLE FOR BATTLE

"The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle." (Exodus 13:18b)

When God is about to initiate confrontation with the enemy He always equips His people for the battle and clothes them in divine armour. This is an important principle for us to embrace – the battle truly belongs to the Lord God of the armies of Israel. He is the One with whom our enemy must contend. It is in the might of Christ that we stand, not in the strength of our own valour or accomplishments. It is Calvary's victory that will ensure we walk in total freedom so long as we keep our focus on Him and not our circumstances. God's glory is our place of shelter and our resting place.

Apostle Paul's words to the church in Ephesus help us to remember the garments with which we are clad for spiritual warfare – truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God coupled with the power of unrelenting prayer. (Eph 6:10-20) Child of God – don't give up! Keep praying and pressing in until God's glory manifests in your particular circumstance.

GOD'S FIRE WILL BURN UP ENEMY ACTIVITY ON OUR BEHALF

"By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night" (Exodus 13:21)

One faithful aspect of God's character is that He is our Shepherd King. In this role God patiently and powerfully guides us into covenant blessing. His word lights our path and His fire consumes all unholy activity around us as we earnestly seek Him in a lifestyle of obedient love and devotion. God's fire will burn up the enemy's activity on our behalf.

If you have ever been without light (perhaps due to a power shortage) you will appreciate that even the tiniest of flames will illuminate the darkest midnight depths. How much more then will the light of Christ's love illumine our hearts and minds with His thoughts and ways as He leads us as His lambs in healing exodus? The enemy wants to draw us into the shadows of despair and doubt but God's love speaks of a better way - a living in faith which embraces us in the Father's tender care. Beloved, step out of the darkness of self-doubt and unbelief into the clear blue water of God's Promised Land and enjoy the sweet fellowship of His sustaining presence. Whatever you are going through just now will pass, and in passing through this trial, you will know a deeper revelation of God's character at work in you, and His love expressed in and through you.

GOD CALLS US FROM THE SHADOW OF FEAR INTO THE GLORY OF HIS POWER

"And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory" (Exodus 14:4)

It can be difficult for us to acknowledge, but the reality is that sometimes God permits the enemy to pursue us so that His glory is revealed in His delivering power in our lives. God will allow fear to become evident in our lives so that He can heal us from its debilitating effects. God permits us to become aware of previously hidden issues because He wishes to impact them with the power of the Cross. Many modern day heroes of faith just need to step out of the shadow of fear into the glory of Christ's healing power.

In principle, facing personal fear was what occurred when God permitted the Israelites to become aware that Pharaoh was hot on their trail. I have learned through my journey of healing that an

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essential principle to being an overcomer is learning to face our fears in order for God to help us conquer them and thus transition us from ‘victim’ mode to ‘victor’ mentality. Breaking this destructive cycle will forge a clear path away from all kinds of abuse into true hope and healing.

Mental health issues, depression and all kinds of phobias are just some of the ways in which Satan seeks to keep God’s people ensnared but God declares over us that He did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of sound mind. Child of God, I break the power of every enemy assignment of sickness over your life in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

FACE YOUR FEAR AND LET GOD HEAL YOU

"As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord." v10

The Israelites started out well but at the first sign of enemy intimidation they were petrified. Let’s face it – we are not so different ourselves when trouble comes knocking at our door! When things don’t quite go according to plan we can be just as prone to ‘faith wobbles’ as the Israelites were. It is, therefore, most liberating to understand that embracing healing is not about the absence of fear in our day to day activities. True courage can be ours when we receive God’s grace and persist in pursuing personal freedom. Our enemy will always try to intimidate us but we have grace to overcome Satan’s every onslaught., planned sabotage, assignment and destructive plot in the name of Jesus Christ, the Name above all Names.

Heavenly Father today we come to you in the name of your beloved Son Yeshua and ask that you would deliver us from all evil; Lord, contend with those who contend with us. Father we thank you that you are for us, and therefore nothing is able to stand against us. Holy Spirit we ask you to expose areas of our lives in which you desire to bring healing and restoration, and we surrender to the journey which your grace will take us on as you liberate every part of who we are for your glory. Amen.

Catherine Brown

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"PROTECTION FROM DECEPTION"

by Derek Prince.

Navigating Through The Minefield Of Signs And Wonders

Chapter One of a book by Derek Prince - Nov 1996

Chapter 1

Signs and Wonders Do Not Determine Truth

There has been in recent years a worldwide explosion of signs and wonders. Some have been biblical and helpful. Others have been bizarre and unbiblical. Signs and wonders are not new. They are recorded in various passages of the Bible and in different periods of church history. However, the current explosion extends more widely than any particular church or denomination and has attracted widespread attention in both the religious and the secular media.

I want to make it plain that I have no personal prejudice or anxiety concerning unusual manifestations. In actual fact, I have in my own lifetime experienced quite a number of them. They do not frighten me. I am not negative about them. As I recorded in my booklet Uproar in the Church, my own personal encounter with Jesus in World War II began in a very unconventional way. In the middle of the night, in a barrack room of the British Army, I spent more than an hour on my back on the floor, with my body first racked by convulsive sobs and then filled with a river of laughter which grew continually louder.

Next morning, I found myself a completely different person, changed not by any act of my will but by yielding to the supernatural power that had flowed through me. I then looked up various passages in the Bible that speak about laughter. To my surprise, I discovered that - for God's people - laughter is not primarily, as we imagine, a reaction to something comical, but rather an expression of triumph over our enemies.

In Psalm 2:4, David actually depicts God Himself as laughing: He who sits in the heavens shall laugh: The Lord shall hold them in derision, Here, God's laughter is not a reaction to some comedy that is being enacted on earth. Rather, it is His response to the ridiculous human midgets who have the effrontery to oppose His purposes. It is His expression of triumph over all the forces of evil.

Sometimes, God fills us with His own laughter that we may share in His triumph over those who are both His enemies and ours.

Later I pastored a fellowship in London that met on the top floor

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

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"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

of a five- story building. One evening a lame man was miraculously healed and threw away his crutches. We all burst into spontaneous praise. At that moment the building began to tremble and shake with the power of God. The praise and shaking continued for about thirty minutes.

I realized that something similar was recorded of the early church in Acts 4:31: And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

At that particular time, our fellowship was conducting several evangelistic meetings each week in the streets of London, and we certainly needed more than natural boldness.

But with regard to any kind of manifestation, there are two questions that I always want to ask. Number one: Is it a manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God? Or is it a manifestation from some other source? And number two (and this is related to it): Is the manifestation in question in harmony with Scripture? In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul says, All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. In other words, the Holy Spirit is the author of all Scripture, and He never says or does anything to contradict Himself. Every genuine manifestation of the Holy Spirit will, in some way. harmonize with Scripture.

Now, I want to begin with some warnings of Jesus, particularly related to the end time period in which I believe we are living. These are warnings against deception. They are found in Matthew chapter 24, verses 4, 5, 11 and 24. In other words, four times in 21 verses, Jesus specifically warns us against deception in this period of the close of the age. The first thing Jesus said about the events leading up to His return, in Matthew 24:4: "Take heed that no one deceives you." Verse 5: "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah (Christ),' and will deceive many." Verse 11: "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." And then in verse 24: "For false messiahs (christs) and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." So, Jesus warns us four times against deception. Anybody who shrugs off that warning or treats it lightly does so at the risk of his own soul. The greatest single danger in this end time is not sickness, nor poverty, nor persecution. It is deception. If anybody says, "It could never happen to me," it has already happened to that person, because that person is saying something could never happen that Jesus said would happen. That is a sufficient indication that such a person is deceived.

Next, I want to say something important about signs and wonders. They do not determine truth. It is very essential to understand that. Signs and wonders do not determine truth! Truth is already determined and established, and it is the Word of God. In John 17:17, Jesus is praying to the Father, and He says, "Your word is truth." And in Psalm 119:89, the psalmist said, Forever, 0 Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Nothing that happens on earth can ever change the smallest little sign or letter of the Word of God. It is forever settled in heaven.

Now, the Bible speaks about signs and wonders. It says some things about them that are good, and some that are very frightening. I want to turn to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 and read a few verses there, beginning at verse 9. The coming of the lawless one [that is the title of the Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

So, Paul says here there are such things as lying signs and wonders. There are true signs and there are lying signs. True signs attest the truth. Lying signs attest lies. Satan is fully capable of supernatural signs and wonders. Unfortunately, many in the Charismatic movement have the attitude that if something is supernatural, it must be from God. There is no scriptural basis for that assumption. Satan is perfectly capable of producing powerful signs and wonders to attest his lies, and the reason such people are deceived is because they did not receive the love of the truth. On such people God will send strong delusion. That is one of the most frightening statements in the Bible. If God sends you strong

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HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

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delusion, you will be deluded. I think that is one of the most severe judgments of God recorded in Scripture, sending these people strong delusion. They will be condemned, these people, because they did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Therefore, signs and wonders are not a guarantee that something is the truth. There is only one sure way to know the truth. It is in the Word of God. Jesus said in John 8:32, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." There is no other way to be sure that we can escape deception in these days except that we know and apply the truth of God's Word, the Scripture.

In 1994, for the first time, I was brought into fairly direct contact with one of the groups where those manifestations were occurring. A group of leaders went to some of their meetings and returned all excited, saying they had experienced something wonderful and we all needed to experience it. They said, "Now, you don't test it. You don't try it out. You don't examine it. You just open up to it and receive it." That was the first time that I really began to be suspicious of some of these things, because such a statement is directly contrary to Scripture.

In I Thessalonians 5:21, Paul says to Christians, Test all things: hold fast what is good. So, if we do not test things, we are disobeying Scripture, and anybody who tells us not to test things is, himself, not in harmony with Scripture. Our hearts cannot be relied upon to give us the truth. Proverbs 28:26 says, He who trusts in his own heart is a fool. So do not be a fool. Do not trust your own heart. Do not rely upon what your heart tells you, because it is not reliable. Again, in Jeremiah 17:9 the prophet says, The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

That word deceitful in the Hebrew is a very interesting word. In 1946, I was attending the Hebrew University in Jerusalem as a guest student studying the nature - or the law - of the Hebrew language. I was listening to the head professor in this field at that time talking about this verse: Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things. He gave reasons which I cannot carry over from Hebrew to show that this form of the word deceitful is active, not passive. It does not mean that your heart is deceived. It means that your heart deceives you, so you cannot trust your own heart.

The professor gave a very vivid picture of what it means to find out the truth about your own heart. He said it is like someone peeling an onion. You peel off skin after skin, but you never know when you have reached the last skin - and all the time your eyes are watering. So that has remained with me now for 50 years - such a vivid, scriptural warning against relying on my own heart to tell me the truth. There is only one source of truth, and that is the Scripture.

Mixture Produces Confusion and Division

Now, I would like to give briefly my summation of this whole phenomenon /movement/whatever-you-want-to-call-it, based partly on personal observation and partly on what I believe to be reliable reports. My summation is very simple: it is a mixture of spirits, both the Holy Spirit and unholy spirits. They are mixed together.

In Leviticus 19:19, God warns us against mixture. He is opposed to mixture. God says this, "You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you." So, God warns against three things: breeding mixed livestock, sowing with mixed seed and wearing a mixed garment.

We could say that sowing with mixed seed represents the message that we bring, when it is partly truth and partly error. Wearing a mixed garment would be like a lifestyle that is partly scriptural and partly of this world. And letting livestock breed with livestock of an incompatible kind would be equivalent to a Christian ministry or group aligning itself with a group or ministry that is non-Christian.

It is an interesting thing about such breeding; its product is always sterile. For instance, you can mate a horse with a donkey and the product is a mule. But a mule is always sterile; it cannot reproduce. I think that is one reason why there are so many

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"sterile" operations in Christendom - they are being bred with the wrong mate.

Now, I have observed this carefully, and I have had grievous experience of this condition of a mixture of spirits. I find that it is something which the Scripture warns us against. For instance, there is a character in the Bible, King Saul, who had a mixture of spirits. At one time, he prophesied in the Holy Spirit; at another time, he prophesied in a demon. His career is really a warning. He was a king who ruled for forty years. He was a successful military commander. He had a lot of successes. But mixture was his undoing, and his life closed with tragedy. On the last night of his life, he went to consult a witch, and the next day he committed suicide on the battlefield. Surely that offers no encouragement to any of us to cultivate any kind of spiritual mixture in our lives.

I have observed that the result of mixture is two things: first of all, confusion; and then division. For instance, we have this mixed message, part of which is true, part of which is false. People can respond in two ways. Some will see the good and focus on it, and therefore accept the bad. Some will focus on the bad, and therefore reject the good. In either case, it does not accomplish God's purposes.

Once upon a time I was a pastor, a long time ago, but I remember that the most difficult kind of people to deal with were people who were a mixture. I will give you a little imaginary example. We have Sister Jones in our congregation. One Sunday she gives a beautiful, prophetic message and everybody is uplifted, excited. But two Sundays later, she stands up and gives a revelation which she had in a dream. The further she goes with this revelation, the more confused and confusing it becomes. Eventually, as pastor, I have to say to her, "Sister Jones, I thank you, but I really don't believe that is from the Lord," and she sits down - but that is not the end. After the meeting, Sister White comes to me and says, "Brother Prince, how could you talk to Sister Jones like that? Don't you remember that beautiful prophecy she gave two Sundays ago?" And when Sister White is gone, Brother Black comes to me, and he says, "If that's the kind of revelation she has, I won't listen to any more of her prophecies!"

So, you see what we have? Confusion, and out of confusion, division. I believe that is exactly what is happening in the church: confusion resulting in division. Certainly there is tremendous division! I believe confusion will always produce division.

The Bible gives us no liberty to tolerate the incursion of evil into the church. We are not to be passive; we are not to be neutral. Proverbs 8:13 says, The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. It is sinful to compromise with evil. It is sinful to be neutral toward evil. In John 10:10 Jesus spoke about the thief, the devil, who comes: to steal, to kill and to destroy. We always need to remember, whether it is in an individual life or in a congregation, the devil only comes with three objectives: to steal, to kill and to destroy. I can remember many times I have been speaking with a person who needed deliverance from an evil spirit, and I have said to that person, "Remember, the devil has three reasons for being in your life: to steal, to kill and to destroy. You need to take a stand against him, not be neutral - you must drive him out." What is true of an individual is true of a congregation. It is true for the body of Christ, worldwide.

Some of these unusual manifestations have been compared with unusual manifestations that accompanied the ministry of John Wesley, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards and Charles Finney. Undoubtedly there were unusual manifestations in the ministries of those four men, and I have studied some of them myself, but I think the differences are greater than the similarities with the present situation. Let me point out to you three differences:

First of all, all those men majored on the strong preaching of God's Word. They hardly did anything until they had preached the Word of God, or apart from the preaching of the Word of God. Finney, himself, commented somewhere about his ministry, "I usually spoke an hour or two." I do not know how many contemporary Christians in the West would listen to a two-hour sermon, but Finney gave the Word in its purity and in its power.

Second difference: All those men made a strong call for repentance. That was their primary demand on the people to

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whom they ministered. Some people call what we are seeing today "a refreshing," but in Acts 3:19 Peter says that refreshing must be preceded by repentance. Any refreshing that bypasses repentance is not scriptural. The third difference is that in the ministry of those men, there is no record as far as I know that any of them laid hands on people. I am not saying that it is unscriptural to lay hands on people, but there is a difference. There is a situation in which people receive directly for themselves from the preached Word and another situation in which people have hands laid on them by others. If I could take a simple example. It is like rain. If you are out in the open and the rain falls upon you, you have received your rain direct from heaven. But, on the other hand, if rain is caught and stored in some kind of a cistern, then you are not receiving that rain direct from heaven. You have to take into account the cistern and the pipes through which you receive the rain. This is very vivid for me, because my first wife, Lydia, and I lived in Kenya for five years in a house where our water came from rain caught on the roof and channeled into concrete cisterns. Although the water came from heaven, we quickly learned by experience that if it stayed for any length of time in the cistern, worms developed in it and, consequently, we always had to boil our drinking water. There was nothing wrong with the rain as it came down, but something happened in the channel through which the rain came to us, and it was no longer pure. I think this can be true of laying on of hands. It is a channel which is not always pure.

Recently some ministers have moved from actually laying on hands to some other action of the hands - such as waving or pointing. However, this does not change the fact that something is being transmitted through the hands. Otherwise, there is no reason to use the hands at all. The important question still remains: Are those hands pure channels through which only the Holy Spirit can flow?

For instance, Ruth and I were in a meeting fairly recently where ministers deeply involved in the current move were speaking. We were sitting about two rows behind a woman who was having a terrible experience. She was like somebody continually trying to burp or trying to vomit, and she just went on and on and on. Eventually, I said to Ruth, "I think we ought to try to help her." So, although it was not a meeting for which we were responsible, we went over quietly and started to talk to her. We discovered very quickly that she was speaking in a tongue, but for both of us it was evident that it was a false tongue; it was not a Holy Spirit tongue. We challenged her to confess that Jesus is Lord, and she was not willing or able to say that. So I conclude that she had a false spirit.

Later on, the people who were with her came over and talked to us and asked us what they should do about it. I asked them, "How did it happen?" And they said, "Well, she went to a church that's involved in this move and somebody laid hands on her and this is the way she has been since then. But," they said, "she's convinced it's from God. We can't help her." That is just an example of "rain" that came through a "cistern" that was not pure.

Also, in the present move, there is a great deal of emphasis on love. I agree that love is the greatest thing. But the trouble is that people are not always clear about the nature of love as it is described in the New Testament. First of all, love in us is expressed by obedience to the Lord. Any kind of love that does not result in obedience is unscriptural love.

In John 14:15, Jesus said to His disciples, "If you love Me, keep My commandments," or, in a perhaps better text, "You will keep My commandments." In other words, what is the evidence that you love Him? The evidence is keeping His commandments. Then in verse 21a. Jesus says, "He who has My commandments and keeps them. it is he who loves Me." And in 1 John 5:3, it says, For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. Therefore, any kind of love that does not result in obedience to the will of God revealed in His Word is not scriptural love. It is a counterfeit, a substitute for the real thing. Then, we need to consider the way that God expresses His love toward us. True, God is our Father, and He loves us. But as a Father, if necessary, He is prepared to discipline us. In the messages to the seven churches depicted in Revelation, I would say that Laodicea is probably the one that corresponds most closely to the contemporary church in the West. And to that church the Lord said, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" (Rev. 3:19).

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So, God's love is not sloppy. It is not sentimental. It is right down-to- earth. If we are straying from His ways and if we are disobedient, His love is expressed in rebuking us and chastening us, and He commands us to repent. Once again we have the problem of trying to get what God promises, but bypassing the basic condition of repentance - which is a deception.

I recently read the following comment by a British Bible teacher: Some Christians take the text "God is love" and turn it around to mean "Love is God." In other words, nothing can be wrong if it is rooted in love. However, any love that comes between us and God is an illegitimate love ... Likewise any love that diverts us from obedience to God's Word is illegitimate.

The Identity of the Holy Spirit

In all of this that we are speaking about. this worldwide phenomenon, I believe there is one, central, underlying issue, which is often obscured. In fact, very seldom do we come really to grips with this issue.This issue is the identity of the Holy Spirit. How do we recognize the Holy Spirit? How do we know what the Holy Spirit is like? And how do we distinguish the Holy Spirit from other spirits? I read a statement recently by some New-Ager in which she said about the "New Age," "When the holy spirit comes, then the New Age will be here." Of course I am sure most of you would understand that when she talks about the holy spirit, she is not talking about the same Holy Spirit that the Bible speaks about. This is one of various indications that there is a counterfeit holy spirit. It is nothing new for Satan to produce a religious counterfeit. Since the time of Jesus, history records a whole series of counterfeit messiahs who have risen among the Jewish people. All of them had a following. Some like Sabbetai Zvi, had a widespread and enduring influence. The latest of them died in 1994.

Another religious counterfiet is the being titled the "blessed virgin Mary." With all the claims that have been made for her and all the titles that have been ascribed to her, she bears no resemblance to the humble Jewish maiden who became the mother of Jesus, and later of His brothers and sisters. Yet over the centuries this counterfeit has claimed the devotion of millions of sincere Christians. We need to be on our guard, therefore, that we do not entertain a counterfeit "holy spirit." I want to suggest to you three ways to identify the Holy Spirit, to recognize who the Holy Spirit is.

The first way I refer to in my little booklet Uproar in the Church, which I wrote about two years ago. I will just quote a few paragraphs: Another danger that threatens those who minister in the supernatural realm is the temptation to use spiritual gifts to manipulate or exploit or dominate people. At one period in my ministry I found myself casting spirits of witchcraft out of church-going people. Eventually, I asked the Lord to show me the true nature of witchcraft. I believe the Lord gave me the following definition: Witchcraft is the attempt to control people and get them to do what you want by the use of any spirit that is not the Holy Spirit. After I had digested this, the Lord added: And if anyone has a spirit that he can use, it is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, and no one uses God. That is very important. The Holy Spirit is God, and no one uses God. Then I went on to say, Today I tremble inwardly when I see or hear of a person who claims that he has spiritual gifts which he is free to use just as he pleases. It is surely no accident that some of those who have made such claims have ended in serious doctrinal error.

It is important to see that there is a difference between the Holy Spirit Himself, as a Person, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Romans 11:29, Paul tells us that the gifts ... of God are irrevocable. In other words, once God has given us a gift, He never takes it back. We are free to use it, not to use it, or to misuse it. But even if we misuse it, God does not take it back. Otherwise it would not be a genuine gift, it would only be a conditional loan.

It is a fact that people do misuse gifts of the Holy Spirit. Paul provides a clear example in I Corinthians 13:1: Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. Obviously the Holy Spirit Himself does not become a clanging cymbal. But the

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gift of speaking in tongues - when misused - can become an empty, discordant noise. Unfortunately this often happens in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles.

I believe it is possible to misuse other spiritual gifts - such as a word of knowledge or a gift of healing. This can happen when a person uses a spiritual gift to achieve a result or promote a movement which is not in harmony with the will of God. One obvious misuse would be for personal gain. In such a situation, our safeguard is to be able to recognize the Holy Spirit as a Person and to distinguish between Him and His gifts. This, then, is the first and most important fact about the Holy Spirit: HE IS GOD. And we need to relate to Him and treat Him always as God.

The second fact about the Holy Spirit is that He is the servant of God the Father and God the Son. This is an exciting revelation because it gives such a high value to servanthood. Many people today despise the idea of being a servant. They feel it is demeaning and undignified to be a servant. But I think it is wonderful that servanthood did not begin on earth. It began in eternity and it began in God. God the Holy Spirit is the Servant of the Father and the Son. This does not demean Him or make Him less than God. But it is a fact that we have to recognize about Him, which directs His activities and the things He does. In John 16:13-14 Jesus gives us a glimpse of the Holy Spirit's ministry and activity: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth: for He will not speak on His own authority [literally: from Himself] but whatever He hears He will speak: and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." So we see: the Holy Spirit does not speak from Himself; He has no message of His own. Isn't that remarkable? He only reports to us what He is hearing from the Father and the Son. Secondly, His aim is not to glorify Himself, nor to attract attention to Himself, but always He glorifies and focuses attention on Jesus. That is the second important way to identify the Holy Spirit.

Now, I want you to listen to this carefully, because it is revolutionary. Any spirit that focuses on the Holy Spirit and glorifies the Holy Spirit is not the Holy Spirit. It is contrary to His whole nature and purpose. Once you have grasped that, it will open your eyes to many things which are going on in the church that are otherwise difficult to understand. For example, we have a very beautiful chorus that we sing about the Father, the Son and the Spirit. The first verse says to the Father, "Glorify Thy name in all the earth." The second verse says to Jesus the Son, "Glorify Thy name in all the earth." The third verse says to the Spirit, "Glorify Thy name in all the earth." I love to sing the first two verses, but I decline to sing the third verse, because I do not believe it is scriptural. The Holy Spirit never does glorify His own name. His purpose is to glorify the One who sent Him.

Let me make another statement which may surprise you. I have not found in the Scripture anywhere an example of a prayer addressed to the Holy Spirit. So far as I can understand, no one in the Scripture ever prayed to the Holy Spirit. You probably would do well to check that for yourself, but I have looked carefully and have not found one example. You might ask, "Why so?" And I would give you this answer: It is a question of heavenly "protocol." There is so little respect nowadays for protocol on earth that we sometimes do not realize that there is protocol in heaven. It is protocol relating to a master-servant relationship. In such a relationship, when you are dealing with a servant, you do not speak to the servant, but to the master. You ask the master to tell his servant what to do. It is wrong to directly address a servant when his master is available for you to speak to. I believe that is heaven's protocol. When you recognize the relationship of the Holy Spirit to God the Father and God the Son, you understand that we never give orders to the Holy Spirit. When we want the Holy Spirit to do something, we address our request to the Father or to the Son.

When I was looking through this, I found a passage in Ezekiel chapter 37 which I thought, at first, was an exception. It is part of Ezekiel's well-known vision of the valley full of dry bones with no life in them. First of all, he prophesied and the bones came together, but they were still lifeless corpses. Then, in verses 9 and 10: Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, 0 breath, and breathe on these slain, that they

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may live."" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

So, I thought that the "breath" is really a picture of the wind - or the Holy Spirit - and so Ezekiel was praying to the wind. But he was not praying. He was prophesying. And it did not come from himself. He merely passed on to the wind a command that he had received from God Himself. Therefore, as far as I have been able to discover, there is not a single example anywhere in the Scripture of praying to the Holy Spirit. Now, I am not seeking to make a big issue out of that. On the other hand, I think it is very important as we try to discern the nature and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. You would say to me, "Well, doesn't God hear our prayer when we pray to the Holy Spirit?" I think He does. But we are not praying in full accord with heaven's protocol. If we really want to please the Lord and show respect for Him, we will show respect for His protocol.

The third important fact about the Holy Spirit is what is indicated in His name: He is Holy. This is His primary title: the Holy Spirit. In Hebrew it is the Spirit of Holiness. He has many other titles: for instance, the Spirit of Grace, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Power, and so on, But they are all subsidiary. His name and His primary title is the Holy Spirit. Anything that is unholy does not proceed from the Holy Spirit.

The Scripture also speaks of the beauty of holiness. There is a beauty in holiness when it proceeds from the Holy Spirit. It is not necessarily external. It may be internal beauty. For instance, in I Peter 3:4, Peter speaks about the hidden person of the heart, and he speaks about the adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price. This is not external beauty. It is internal beauty, which comes from the Holy Spirit. I want to say, however, with the utmost emphasis: Anything unholy or ugly does not proceed from the Holy Spirit.

I will give you a list of 12 adjectives, all of which I believe cannot be applied to the Holy Spirit or to anything that is the product of the Holy Spirit. As I go through the list, I suggest you check mentally and see if you agree with me. Here, then, are words that would never apply to the Holy Spirit:

- self-exalting
- self-assertive
- degrading
- flippant
- rude
- sham
- vulgar
- indecent
- insensitive
- stupid
- silly
- degraded

I have in my heart, if God wills and I live, to write a book at some time of which I have already chosen the title. The title is this: Holiness Is Not Optional. Only God knows whether I will ever succeed in writing the book, but I want to say, in any case, that the title states the exact truth. In the Christian life, holiness is not optional. Many Christians seem to think about holiness as if it is like something added to a car, such as fancy leather upholstery instead of the normal kind of plastic. But that is not true. Holiness is an essential part of salvation. In Hebrews 12:14 the writer says, Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no man will see the Lord. What salvation do we have that does not bring us to see the Lord? But without holiness, no one will see the Lord.

We have in our contemporary Western Christianity a very incomplete picture of salvation. "If I get saved and born again, and then I want to go on and be holy. I can do it - but it is an option." I want to tell you that your salvation depends on your being holy. And holiness comes only from the Holy Spirit.

There are many features of purported moves of the Holy Spirit that I could pick out and hold up as examples of things that are not holy. But I will only deal with one, and that is: animal behavior in human beings attributed to the Holy Spirit. There are many such examples, some I have witnessed and some have been reported.

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First of all, there is no passage in Scripture that I know of where the Holy Spirit causes any human being to behave like an animal. There is the example of Balaam, but that is a strong contrast. God caused Balaam's donkey to speak like a man - but He never caused Balaam to bray like a donkey!

There was one man whom God caused to behave like an animal: Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. (Daniel 4:33) But that was God's judgment, not His blessing! Revelation 4:6-8 depicts four living creatures that surround the throne of God. Three are there as representatives of the "animal" kingdom: a lion, a calf and an eagle. But none of them make noises that express their "animal" nature. All of them alike proclaim the holiness of God in pure and beautiful speech. It is important to understand that there is an order in God's creation.

Man was created in the image and likeness of God to exercise authority over the animal kingdom (see Genesis 1:26). Man is, in fact, the highest order of the creation described in the opening chapters of Genesis. This has a bearing on the way the Holy Spirit blesses us. He uplifts those whom He blesses. He will at times cause an animal to act in some ways like a human being. But He will never degrade a human being by causing him to act like an animal.

I have a certain amount of experience in this area because I have encountered animal spirits many times in Africa. I recall one particular deliverance service that I held in Zambia with about 7,000 Africans present. When I had finished the teaching and began to command the evil spirits to manifest themselves and come out of the people, there were all sorts of animal spirits that were let loose. By "animal spirits" I mean evil, demonic spirits that enter human beings and cause them to behave like animals. The first thing that happened was that a man with a "lion spirit" tried to charge me. But someone tripped him up and he did not reach me. You need to know that the reason these Africans in this part of Africa have so many animal spirits is because many of them are hunters of animals. They have this superstition that in order to hunt an animal successfully, you have to get the spirit of the animal in you. So a man tends to have the spirit of the animal which he seeks to hunt. For instance, the man who is hunting a lion, will get a lion spirit.

There are many others. We dealt with spirits of wild boars that caused people to burrow in the earth with their noses like a wild boar rooting for something. Then there were many snake spirits. These were mainly in women, and when they were manifested, the women were flat on their bellies slithering around like snakes. All these I actually witnessed myself.

There was one other spirit that I did not witness, but heard about from the missionary couple who organized the meeting. Later I met the lady concerned. She was a very sweet Christian lady - a school teacher - but her husband was an elephant hunter. When she came to the missionary couple for deliverance, they commanded the elephant spirit to come out. Immediately she dropped on her hands and knees, crawled out through an open door, put her forehead up against a small tree, and began to try to push it down. Wasn't that remarkable? Perhaps some well-meaning Western Christian might have said, "Our sister is pushing a tree down for Jesus," but that was not the explanation. The elephant spirit in her was causing her to do what elephants regularly do, which is push down trees with their foreheads. As soon as she was delivered from that spirit, she no longer had any urge to push trees down with her forehead. In the West, we sometimes tend to speak about the people in Africa as unsophisticated and to consider ourselves more sophisticated. However, I think in this realm of animal spirits it is we, in the West, who are unsophisticated and the Africans who are sophisticated. They have lived for generations with such spirits, but until the gospel came, with the power of the name of Jesus and the Word of God, they had no way to deal with them. Thank God that many of them now know how to deal with them!

Another example of which various reports have been given is people behaving like dogs. I am a dog lover, but I think dogs should be kept in their rightful place. I do not believe that the Holy Spirit ever causes anybody to bark or to run around like a dog.

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Where such manifestations of animal spirits have occurred, there are certain steps that we need to take. We cannot tolerate or encourage such manifestations. Nor can we merely sweep all this under the carpet and go on as if nothing had happened.

In Matthew 12:33, Jesus instructs us: "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit." Wherever there is bad fruit, it comes from a bad tree. It is not enough to get rid of the bad fruit. We must also cut down the bad tree that produced it. If we fail to do this, the bad tree will go on producing more bad fruit. Undoubtedly the tree that produces animal behavior of this kind is some form of occult or pagan practice. For instance, there are frequent manifestations of animal behavior in some parts of Africa and India.

To cut down the tree requires that the leaders responsible identify the problem, confess it as sin and repent of it. Nowhere in the Bible is there any ground to suppose that God will forgive sins that we are not willing to confess. Somebody has said, "The confession must be as wide as the transgression." If leaders have tolerated these things in the presence of their people, then in the presence of their people they need to confess it as a sin and cancel it. Otherwise, if the bad tree is not cut down, it will go on producing bad fruit.

In closing, I want to give a little "parable" of my own construction, which is about my relationship with my wife. In this parable my wife represents the Holy Spirit and I represent God. Now please understand, this is a very simple little parable and I am fully aware that the Holy Spirit is not the wife of God. But with those cautions, let me relate the parable.

A friend comes to me and says, "I saw you and your wife together on the platform the other evening and she looked so beautiful, so fresh, so full of the Holy Spirit." So I say, "Thank you. That's really how she is." Then, a little later, the same man comes to me and says, "You know, yesterday I saw your wife in a bar with a man drinking." And I say, "That was not my wife! My wife is a pure and godly woman. She does not go to bars and she does not drink with strangers. My wife was right here with me all day yesterday. Don't speak that way about my wife!"

But a little later, he comes to me and says, "You know, I saw your wife yesterday sunbathing topless on the beach." Then I get really angry. I say to him, "My wife was nowhere near the beach yesterday, and she would never expose herself like that! If you want to remain my friend, you've got to come to the place where you don't identify that loose, immoral woman as my wife, because that's an insult to her and to me, If you want to remain my friend, you've got to change the way you speak about my wife."

The application, of course, is this: if you want to remain a friend of God, you cannot afford to identify His Holy Spirit as something that is loose or immoral or ugly or unholy, because that angers God intensely.

Now we come to one final Scripture, which is in Matthew 12:31-32. Jesus says, "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

That is a very solemn and frightening warning. We are warned by Jesus Himself to be very, very careful how we speak about the Holy Spirit, how we represent the Holy Spirit.

Jesus uses the word blasphemy, and I decided to look it up in my big Greek lexicon. The primary meaning of to blaspheme is given in the lexicon as this: to speak lightly or amiss of sacred things. So when you speak lightly or amiss concerning the Holy Spirit, or misrepresent the character of the Holy Spirit, by definition you are close to blaspheming.

If you have ever done that, or been prone to do it, or been associated with those who do it, I want to offer you some sincere advice: You need to repent. You need to settle that matter once and for all with God and never again be guilty of misrepresenting God's Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit is holy and He is God.

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Did I Not Show You

Jeff Fraley

(Father's words this day)

Have these events caught many of you off guard? Why?

It has been ten years of warning I gave to you. My children, was that not enough? Books have been written about the coming collapse of the economy.

Words have been spoken. Still, I see many worrying about what to do. For ten years, the warning has gone out! Some have heeded. Some have lost patience, through the years, waiting, and fell back to their old ways.

You ask, Father, what was the warning?
1. SEEK ME FIRST.
2. GET OUT OF DEBT. (most live in debt).
3. WORK AND PAY FOR YOUR HOME.
(Many have 2nd and even 3rd mortgages.)
4. STOP CREDIT CARD SPENDING.
(More rely on credit cards, then they did ten years ago).
5. STORE UP NEED...as I show you.
(Many are wanting...after living these past ten years in desire
and not preparation.)

I call to the many... Repent of your ways. Let Me, Your Father, be the Guide. This Country has turned it's back to Me. As Babylon once fell, it will fall again! Today is a day of CHOICE. Repent... Be forgiven or stumble into the abyss of greed and corruption, as evil lays it's hand upon the land.
I grow weary of my disobedient children. As Your Father...I will correct you. My anger will be seen. My Word will be heard. Know, as evil rears it's head, I am always watchful. (Psalms 91)

Don't take My words lightly. Take them to heart, for perilous days are upon you and your faith shall be tested. As all falls around you, will you also fall? or will you choose My light to guide you?

October 16, 2008 Sardius/Emerald
Jeff/Patti Fraley

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DISASTERS WHERE??

by Andrew Strom

Feb 8, 2008

I write this out of genuine concern for the remnant of God in the USA. It is something brief that I have been wanting to put together for awhile. It is simply about the many similar prophecies of calamity and physical judgment coming upon this nation. There seems to be a pattern, and I don't want to cause undue alarm, but simply to discuss these things so we are not unaware of them. God will tell you if you need to act on any of this.

Since I have been in the United States (and even before, to some degree) it has come to my attention that there have been prophetic and praying people from all different places who have had visions, dreams, or strong revelations - that often seem to line up with others totally separate from themselves. This has happened too often to dismiss it as mere "coincidence". I truly believe God has been speaking to a lot of these people.

What I want to do in this article is simply talk about a number of over-riding themes that seem to have come out again and again in these warnings.

For myself, I am convinced that America is entering into some very dark days ahead - not just economically, but in all kinds of ways. She is literally sleep-walking her way towards a precipice and she is about to go over. We have discussed many of the reasons for this in past articles. But suffice it to say, it seems that serious judgments are now at the door.

DANGER IN THE WEST

The most unanimous warnings from many quarters concern the West Coast. Certainly, California seems to have painted a larger and larger target on herself in recent years - almost crying out for judgment. Virtually every prophecy or vision that I have heard regarding California involves not just earthquakes but also massive walls of WATER literally inundating entire regions. It is so common for people to have had vivid technicolor dreams and visions of these earthquakes or tsunamis, that personally I have to believe there is something in it. But it is not just California. In many visions, the wall of water that is seen causes massive devastation right up and down the entire West Coast - and even a long way inland. We may say that such a thing seems unlikely, but I for one would not be so quick to ignore such unanimous warnings. If you live on the West Coast, and you strongly sense God telling you to move - then MOVE! I guess it is as simple as that.

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!

MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

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"THRIVE IN THIS CRISIS" (-Oct 08) - Andrew Strom

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE

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THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL

"TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH"

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)
- Andrew Strom

"THE TRUE GOSPEL - HAVE WE EVER HEARD IT?"
- Andrew Strom

"DEEP DEALINGS (My Testimony)"
- Andrew Strom

"THE THUNDERING SONG"

"PRAY ALONG WITH AGONIZING PRAYER"
- Listen & Pray!

"THE COMPROMISE SONG"

"STREET REVIVAL IS COMING!"
- Andrew Strom

"THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD"
- Andrew Strom

"OUTSPOKEN!"
-Andrew Strom.

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

then NO WE. I guess it is as simple as that.

OTHER STATES

By no means is the West Coast the only part of America being singled out in a lot of these prophecies. If you know where the Madrid fault-line is (on the Missouri-Illinois border) then perhaps you know too that the strongest-recorded earthquake in US history occurred there. There are prophecies of another massive earthquake that will follow the Mississippi right up through this corridor. So the midwest is not necessarily that safe. We need to know exactly where God would have us - and be listening to Him. That is the only safe place to be. -In the center of His will. As far as weather and super-storms go, the Gulf Coast and the East Coast are also prophesied to get hit again. (-Including New Orleans).

WHERE THEN ARE THE SAFE ZONES?

You need to be totally led by the Spirit, but generally if these things begin to occur, some of the northern central states are often spoken of as "safety zones" - ie. From Eastern Washington (Spokane area) and Eastern Oregon over to Western Wisconsin - taking in most of the states in between - ie. Most of Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa. -There are other spots around the country that are spoken of as "Places of Refuge" also, but as I said before, it is utterly crucial to be led by the Spirit in all of this. When and if these things begin to happen, I truly believe God will speak to you if you are listening. Nothing that I am saying here is a cause for alarm or panic. It is simply a call to start listening very closely to the voice of God - which I'm sure many of you are doing already.

THE WORST CASE SCENARIO

The latter part of a lot of these prophecies and dreams show America being invaded by foreign armies while she is down. There are so many accounts of people seeing Chinese or UN troops on American soil in these visions - it is amazing. This is one of the most consistent features. Heavy Government crackdowns, bombs and explosions (-even Nukes) in various places - people have seen many of these things. But the "invading armies" one is definitely among the most common. Does it make sense? Yes, absolutely - if America is down and vulnerable. The U.S has many enemies in the world - sadly even some in her own Government.

I am writing these things for no other reason than to bring "confirmation" to God's Remnant - if they have already been hearing them from God Himself.

By no means am I asking people to act on what I am writing here. You need to hear from the Lord directly - and act only on what He tells you. But hopefully this email may act as a confirmation, to help you make your decision when and if the time comes. We all know that even in the very midst of danger, being in the center of God's will is literally the only place worth being - crisis or no crisis.

But I just wanted to put this out so that people will know what God has been speaking in many parts of this nation for a number of years. The safety of the Remnant is certainly of great concern to me. If you yourself have seen dreams or visions of these things, I would certainly be interested to hear them. You can email me at- prophetic@revivalschool.com

Yours for the love of God's true Remnant in this land...

PART 2 + MAPS OF JUDGMENT

Last week I wrote the above piece outlining the very similar judgments that many praying and prophetic people have seen coming upon the USA - numerous people, both "known" and unknown - who have seen these things totally independent of one another.

PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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As I said, this is not a call for alarm or "running away" or any such thing. It is simply a call to be aware of these things, and to be listening closely to the Lord if ever the time comes when He may want you to take action.

Some say we should simply stay and help others - and not even dream of "escaping". That is certainly fine - and many may be led to do just that. God can protect us in the midst of ANYTHING. But if whole regions may actually be UNDERWATER then we still need to be aware - and listening very closely to God's voice.

I received many replies to my piece last week, and I just want to add a couple of possible danger areas to the List. -These cropped up again and again in some of the replies.

The first is FLORIDA and that whole Southeast region. There have been many many people who have had dreams and visions of much of that area under water. Again, like the West Coast, it may be hit by some kind of tsunami. The low-lying parts of North Carolina, etc, may also not be safe - though perhaps the mountains will. So it is not just the West Coast that is under a giant "tsunami warning", but also a large portion of the East Coast as well. I am simply passing this information along. Please take it before the Lord for yourself.

The other thing I wanted to mention again is the "Invasion" scenario (Chinese, Russian or UN troops, etc), and also the "Government crackdown". There is a persistent thread of 'martial law' and persecution and people being herded into "camps", etc, that people have seen for years - which it is important to be aware of. None of this is cause for fear - rather it is cause for PRAYER. I truly believe God will keep those safe who are walking close to Him - even in the midst of terrible dangers.

There are several maps which I came across in the process of researching this topic - some of which I feel led to share with you. I tell you, there are a LOT of people who have been shown very similar parts of America getting hit.

HERE ARE THE MAPS BELOW:

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NITA JOHNSON'S MAP
In her vision she said the solid areas on the map had disappeared and the cross-hatched areas had suffered much devastation. [SOURCE: Stephen Bening's Site]

MATTHEW STEPHEN'S MAP
In his 1993 vision the "SAFE AREAS" are shown in blue (like a 'panther' shape). Tsunamis had devastated the West and East coasts - with the Carolina areas ('hind legs') only "temporarily" safe. Notice the strong similarity with the overall shape of Nita Johnson's "safe" zone. [SOURCE: PropheticWatchmanVine website]

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SISTER HATTIE'S MAP
showing a large area permanently under water - carved out by a future New Madrid Earthquake in the corridor currently occupied by the Mississippi River. The coastal area of Texas was also shown as devastated. Many people have seen this 'New Madrid' cataclysm,
including Matthew Stephen. (-It is shown on his map above).
[SOURCE: Stephen Bening's Site]

SOUTHEAST WATER DEVASTATION
showing most of Florida underwater - possibly from some kind of Tsunami. This map combines a number of different dreams and visions by people. [SOURCE: Stephen Bening's Site]

Yours for love of the Remnant,
Andrew Strom.

To respond to this article, write to: prophetic@revivalschool.com

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Drastic
Mary Clark

(A Prophetic Exhortation)
drastic – radical, severe, extreme, dire, sweeping, far-reaching, strong

June 29, 2008

I am making some drastic changes throughout the world, *drastic changes*. Get ready to behold the glory of the Lord God Almighty in *your* vicinity, for it will surely change things, change things drastically!

My glory will penetrate hearts in a way that you have never experienced. It will open your eyes to some very important things. It will enable you to see clearly into My words of truth, and embrace them wholeheartedly. My glory does a work like no other. So, beloved, get ready to receive! Get ready to receive the wonder of My glory and know that along with it comes untold benefits, benefits that you will gladly welcome with a thankful heart, a thankful heart surrendered to your Beloved Creator.

Get ready, for the time is fast approaching when My glory will consume everything in its path. It will open vistas that you have never viewed, never enjoyed, and you will walk in an entitlement that you have never realized, the entitlement that I gladly purchased for you so very long ago on Calvary.

That is what you may look forward to, beloved, My glory, sweeping into your vicinity and bring a new era of wonder to hearts that are receptive. Get ready for change. Get ready for *drastic* change, for it is surely coming and when it comes it will surely gladden your precious heart!

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Fear- Full And Peace-Full

Lana Vawser
Australia

18th October, 2008

My beautiful Church, how I long to continue to pour out My love into your midst and show you My delight in each of you.

Many of you have been walking in the darkness and trying to find your way out and have been feeling oppressed and wondering when the season will end.

I speak to you examine your hearts; to see if your hearts have been fear- full or peace-full. For many within My Church are now walking lives of tremendous fear, fear that has crippling consequences, and because of My great love for you, I long to set each of you free from that fear and lead you into the land of peace.

Many of you have storms around you like you have never felt before, the wind, the rain, the lightening and thunder seem louder and stronger than ever before, but I speak to you, that very soon shall your storm end. For I am using the storm to uproot fear from your lives and fill you with My peace.

My peace that surpasses all understanding, for the one thing that fear will rob is your peace. The enemy is trying to impregnate you My Church with his lies, his fear and his doubt, so that you may go around the mountain again.

I delight in you, I am greatly fond of you My beautiful Church and I am using these circumstances for your good.

Do not fear, for I am with you and I love each of you with a love that surpasses your human understanding, it is incomprehensible to your minds, but by My Spirit I am continually drawing many of you into the divine dance of love, My love for you.

I am cleaning My Church, and truly teaching you My Church about My love, My delight in you, and calling you on deeper levels to trust Me no matter what your circumstances dictate.

For the time is coming My Church where I will release many of you that have been walking this dark valley of pruning to rid yourselves of fear, so that you may minister to others walking where you have walked.

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Much is being shaken not only in the world but in My Church and My precious people, if you allow yourselves to be fear-full you will fall to the way side, and you will crumble, and this is not My heart for you.

Repent for allowing your hearts to be fear-full and repent for doubting My love and not trusting Me, and you will see My love come in deeper than ever before, transform your hearts by the revelation of My divine love, and each of you shall receive a revelation of My peace that will keep you standing strong all the days of your lives.

For the work I am doing on this earth, I am looking for warriors who know their Creator's love and walk in boldness because they know how much I love them and approve of them.

Do not compromise My Church and fall into fear. Activate your faith knowing My great love for you and each of you will see the dawning of the new day.

Hold nothing back from Me, lay down all your cares, anxieties and worries to Me and know My Church I am working all things for your good and for My Glory.

As you open your hearts to Me, I am rooting out fear, and divine love, strength and peace is being planted.

The weeping shall continue into the next season, but the tears each of you cry, will be tears of joy and freedom and not of fear.

With Me by your side My Church you can do all things. I am on your side, I love you and I am releasing fear from your lives once and for all. Walk in it Church, walk in it now, and the new day will dawn. Don't doubt Me, trust Me, hold My hand and you will be taken to places you've never dreamed of.

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Fear Not
Deborah A Gaston

October 13-2008

For the Lord spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying: "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' concerning all that this people call a conspiracy,

Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. He will be as a sanctuary… Isa 8:11-14a

The underlying current in the world in which you live today is fear – and it is not only a fear that is permeating the "world" but it is grabbing hold of many in My Body as well. They may couch it in other terms, but the bottom line is far too many are beginning to operate from a place of fear rather than a place of faith. That breaks My heart; for, it is in times like these that I desire to show Myself strong to My people and, thus, to the world.

Hear Me! This is not the time to allow the negative reports that you hear daily to become a part of your thought pattern and, therefore, the framework from which you base your behavior. Now and always you must govern your lives, your actions, your decisions on My word. You hear the words released by media, released by the "experts" and echoed and reechoed by those around you and many are allowing those words to drown out, to overshadow My word. Now is the time more than ever before to know what you know and live it out, walk it out no matter what is going on around you. Now is the time more than ever before that My children must be fortified with My Word. It must be a part of you. It must become your necessary food. It must be that which guides you! Be aware of the facts, don't ignore the facts but don't allow the facts to become stronger in you than My truth. The words I speak are truth and life!

Now is the time that I will show Myself strong to those who will stand on the reality and truth of My Word. I AM all that I AM. Allow Me to show Myself strong in your life for all to see. It will become a testimony of My greatness, a testimony of My faithfulness, a testimony of My love and it will cause others to seek Me as they watch you let Me do what I do best -- simply be I AM!

I say to you as I said to Isaiah: Do not say what the people around you say and do not fear what those around you fear. Make Me your fear. Fear is nothing more than placing respect and reverence in something or someone. So whom shall you fear? Who shall your reverence and respect in this time of shaking? Will you reverence the Dow Jones? Will you reverence the negative reports? Will you reverence the government? Or will you reverence Me, the Sovereign Lord? For as you make Me your fear, I have promised to be as a sanctuary to you. A sanctuary is a place of safety and refuge. A sanctuary is a place of peace, protection and provision. What touches those outside the sanctuary cannot touch those within it. I will be as a sanctuary, if you truly place your faith in Me.

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Yes, just as I promised in My word, I AM shaking all that can be shaken. I AM shaking heaven; I AM shaking earth. I AM shaking within and I AM shaking without. Those who are truly Mine, who have anchored themselves in Me and in My word are those who shall remain standing strong when the shaking is over.

"For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts. 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:6-9)

Know this: as the shaking continues many will come to you – My Church—for answer that the world systems and false religions have not been able to provide. They will come in droves, knocking at your doors in search of answers. You are the answer. You are the hope – Christ in you is truly the hope of glory.

So I call you now to a place of prayer that presses in like never before. I call you to place of stillness at My feet where I will release strategies, wisdom and answers. I call to hear Me more clearly than ever; for, through you, My Body, I will release the answers needed. And as you release those answers, as you put My strategies into action, as you walk out by faith that which I AM speaking, the world will know that I AM with you. Many shall come into My kingdom as a result. Just fear not and trust Me.

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:25-29

The Fathers Heart
Deborah A Gaston
thefathersheart7@aol.com

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Go Forth With Confidence

Judy Bauman

www.thefathersloveim.org
thefatherslove@yahoo.com

September 27, 2008

An exhortation from the Father's heart to yours: Go Forth With Confidence

This is not a time for the church to be in tribulation or turmoil. Have I not sounded the warnings and have I not given words of preparation? This day should not shock you like a thief in the night. This day is one I have prepared for you to go forth with confidence!
It is time for My church - those I call "Mine" - to rise up and shine. "ARISE" I say. "SHINE" I shout! I will give the glory. I will give the victory. It is My glory and My victory that I give to you as you go forth in My name. I Am the Victorious One and it is up to you to fall with the stock market or arise in My strength and shine.
Jehovah Nissi (God our Banner of Victory)

Scripture References:
Isaiah 60:1-5; Psalm 71:5; Proverbs 3:26; Jeremiah 17:5-10; John 14:1

Personal Note:
The night after I received this word, I was at Daystar Church in Atlanta and the pastor received a confirming prophetic song where there was a clarion call for the church to wake up and rise up. Then at one point he began to sing, "Arise, shine!" It was a powerful song delivered in the strength of the Lord.
The Father has been making a point for some time that we are living of the dark days of Isaiah 60 and that we need to arise from our slumber and shine in the glory of God. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to enable us to be confident in this calling to which we have been called. No longer say that you are not able because God is saying to you, "Arise and go forth with confidence!" AMEN! Blessings, Judy

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Greater Measures From Greater Devils

Yolanda Ballard

roarnworship@cfl.rr.com

Oct 17, 2008

Violent measures have been taken by the enemy to destroy, not just deceive, the very elect. If you have been called by My name, I want you to hide within My secret place covered with the banner of My love. The power of My blood will keep you safe if you stay behind your shield of faith not looking at the fiery darts and even missiles of the evil one. For he is out to steal, kill and destroy, but I came to bring you life and life abundantly.

For this is the end of what some may call the latter days, and I am about to pour out My flood gates of glory upon those who have made themselves ready, and also at the same time I will pour out My great fury upon those who do not keep My commands. For I see the hearts of My people, and I know they are pure, but upon those who are the counterfeit great wrath will fall. For they see that they have the upper hand, and for a season they may have, but I will turn the tides and great judgment will fall upon those who have great pride in who they have risen to be, and even upon those who have supported them in their wickedness great judgment will fall.

For I will only allow this uprising for a season, and I will turn the tides, and My righteousness will prevail. So keep your eyes upon Me and know that I am faithful and sovereign over all things. All things will work together for the good in bringing forth My will and My kingdom in the land. Rest assured that I will keep you safe through the storm. I will cover you with the force field of My love. The glory upon you will blind the enemy.

What I do allow you to go through will only strengthen you and prepare you and even purge you. Yes, I am cleaning you up and making you ready, for you are My bride, My precious army of warring worshipers. You are My faithful ones, My overcomers, loving Me even over your own lives. Yes, you overcome by My blood, My love, your testimony, loving not your own life even unto death.

Rise up, march on, for you will take the land, for My ways are higher than those of the world. Love, forgive, be meek, and you will rule and reign with Me.

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Hidden In My Secret Place

Mary Lindow
Denver, Colorado

"Hidden in My Secret Place" – A Prophetic Word
By the Holy Spirit through Mary Lindow

To listen to this message as a free podcast click here:
www.gcast.com/u/MaryLindow
www.marylindow.com

CHILD OF MY DIVINE PLAN
The coming darkness will cause you no fear.
My perfect love for you will cast out ALL fear!

I will hold your hand and lead you in a way like no other. I will give you eyes that can see in the dark, but I will also hold your hand and lead you through the darkness.
For you, this present darkness will be an opportunity to help bring in the great harvest.
I AM the Lord of the Harvest, and I will usher in a mighty and uncountable harvest!

Don't' try to count these souls don't try to count them!
They will be coming from all directions and places and in many numbers.

Those that are sitting in darkness are going to get up and run toward the light, those who are engulfed in darkness will clamor for the light.

My Chosen ones will shine bright in the darkness and they will point the way to Me.
You will be like a lighthouse and a beacon in the dark and stormy seas.

YOU WILL REJOICE THAT YOU WERE CHOSEN
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

Yes My Chosen Ones, this will be a time of Great Harvest!
You have been prepared for this great day!
You are fit and ready, now, for service.

I promise, you were chosen…
…For such a time as this!

CHILD DO NOT FEAR OR DREAD THE COMING DARKNESS!
Welcome it as necessary for a part of the things I have planned!
You will not listen to the voice of the enemy or fall into the deceits and the deceptions of his lies if you are walking in My truth.

You will be free indeed!
There is great peace and security in truth.
I will save you from the entanglements, and snares and traps of the enemy.

So recognize, know and embrace the truth of My Word! It is a Gift of My love for you.

When you have My wisdom to rely upon, you see with the eyes of faith into the unknown.

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My child, the truth will set you free from the fear of failure.
For when I am leading, I will never lead you to fail, but I will lead you to be victorious.

I WILL SET YOU FREE FROM THE FEAR OF MAN,
For when I am on your side tell me –
Who can rise up against you?

Who dares come against My child when I the Defender and I their Protector is present?
My love and my loving care are a protective shield around about them.
So stand up and shine!

ARISE CLOTHED IN LIGHT! I THE LORD SHINE UPON YOU!
Arise from the depression in which circumstance have kept you!

Rise to a new life!
Be radiant with the Glory of My presence!
For the Glory is upon you!

Even though darkness shall cover earth, and darkness and deep gloom will cover the people of the world, but I the Lord, will rise upon you!

Though thick dark clouds shroud the nations, your new day is dawning.
People will see my glory around you!

So! Arise and be Glad!
The Eternal Light- Shines upon YOU!
Isaiah 60:1-2

I The LORD shall preserve you from all evil:
I shall preserve your soul.

I The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, And even for evermore.
Psalm 121:7- 8

I AM YOUR LIGHT AND YOUR SALVATION—
So why should you be afraid?

I AM your fortress, protecting you from danger,
So why should you tremble?

When evil people come to devour you,
When your enemies and foes attack,
They will stumble and fall.

Though a mighty army surrounds you,
Your heart will not be afraid.
Even if you are attacked,
You will remain confident.

JUST ASK OF ME - ONLY ONE THING.
Let it be the thing you seek most—
To live in the house of the Lord all the days of your life,

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delighting in My perfect ways and meditating in My Secret Place.

For I will conceal you there when troubles come;
I will hide you in My sanctuary.
I will place you out of reach on a high rock.
You will hold your head high above the enemies
who surround you.

In my Secret Place, You will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising ME, the Lord of Glory - with music. Psalm 27: 1-6

I CONTROL HUMAN EVENTS—
I GIVE RULERS THEIR POWER…
… AND TAKE IT AWAY

My name will be praised forever and forever.
I AM all-powerful, and I know everything.
And I am the source of wisdom and knowledge.

I reveal Deep and Secret things.
I know what is in the darkness.
Daniel 2:20-22

MY CHILD. MOVE INTO A SIMPLER LIFESTYLE
Move nearer to My fire and My Presence where the pillar warms in the night seasons and the cloud shields from peril during the day!

When you are so consumed by My glory and presence that you must do everything
you can to live in it and near it, you will be a blessed person!
Blessed is the man who longs for more of Me.

To flourish in My Presence means to have no other love focus but My will!
And. No secret agendas or hope of personal greatness in reward for your efforts!

Blessed are your when you persevere under trial,
because you have stood the test,
You will receive the crown of life,
That I the Lord have promised to those who love Me.
-James 1:12

WISDOM COMES FROM GOD ABOVE
Intelligence comes from man's own efforts.
A Godly Character reflects inclusiveness of others, compassion, patience, brutal self-examination and honesty.

Charisma is one with flair, influence, and human wit.
It draws others into a web of hope and promise but rarely sacrifices it's own agenda and comfort.

Child, bow down in a holy fear of My Almighty ability to "scan your inner thoughts" and ask Me to truly renew in you a clean heart, clean motives, and clear pathways.

TO KNOW OF MY WAYS, YOU MUST KNOW ME!
To Know Me, you must spend time with ME.

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To spend time with Me, you must purpose, to put aside the lists of things you have to do before you can spend time with Me."

"ORDER YOUR DAYS FIRST IN MY PRESENCE,
and watch the desires of your heart be fulfilled.
Man and his counsel will always fall short of the full truth of My Wisdom.
I have blueprints and a Master plan for so many things yet to build upon in your life."

"COME. LET US WALK AGAIN TOGETHER."
"You are the temple, the house of My Holy Spirit.
I desire to build you up in spiritual strength as you walk in prayer and conversations WITH ME.

"I will fulfill your longing for peace and direction as you step up again into a heavenly trust and rest."

"PEOPLE WILL CHANGE, MAN WILL FAIL YOU,
friends will turn, if they are not seeking My Voice above the clamor of the day.
And you My child will fail others, if you listen to your own voice of reason and intelligence.

As you turn to Me, you will see My compassion poured out upon you and you will then have My power of pure godly compassion and Wisdom-driven grace to pour out on others."

Seek Me-with all of your heart, your longings, your heartaches, your dreams. And I will be there with arms of strength to rescue you from Despair."

You will seek me and find me-
When you seek me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

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I Am In Control
Betty Heimbach

Oct 18, 2008

I Am In Control

My Beloved,

I am in control. I have sent angels to surround you, to protect you. They have recorded all that has happened. They know the next move of the enemy even his plans to hinder, impede and come against you. They see all that is happening and are prepared to act on your behalf.

Your prayers can alter history, change the course of nations and change your world. I have charted your course. I am in control. My plans are ordered. They cover every possible occurrence. There are no surprises to Me. You may be caught off guard. Your plans may fail.

But nothing that is happening is a surprise to Me. All is not lost no matter what you feel or think. You were not prepared for what is now coming - but I have prepared things for you. Victory is ahead. Turn your eyes toward Me. Set your face to follow My way. Turn your mind to My word and follow My direction. Set sail and follow Me in the wind of My Spirit. A fresh wind is blowing. I am in control.

Bread For Hungry Hearts
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Confronting The Enemy
Betty Heimbach

October 16, 2008

You have been in one of the hardest spiritual battles of your life. It has all been a spiritual battle. You

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have been involved in spiritual warfare. That is the cause of your weariness – your exhaustion. You are doing the right things. You have on all the armor. You are carrying the sword. But you are retreating. You stand in a defensive stance and hold your weapons and shield while backing away from the enemy.

He has no power over you except what you give him. You are the victor through Christ Jesus. I have already won the victory for you. You need to face the enemy and command him to go. Let him know that you know that he is a liar and a pretender. You can walk unafraid right into the battlefield, because you carry the victory, you carry the authority of your God with you.

When you face the enemy and move out into the battle, the enemy will retreat! He knows you have the authority. He has no right, no ground to stand on. Chase him away with the Word of God and the power of My Spirit.

:2Sa 22:35 He trains my hands for battle;

Dt 20:2-4. When you are about to go into battle, ... Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory"

:2Ch 20:17. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see [x] the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.' "

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JESUS AS "LOVER"??

by Andrew Strom

Is there a problem with a "Romantic Lover" Jesus?

ABOUT THE "ROMANCING JESUS" MOVEMENT:

What does the term "Passion for Jesus" mean to you? Would it surprise you to learn that whole Christian movements are now using it to mean a kind-of "eros" love for Jesus - a 'passion' for Him similar to what an earthly husband and wife have for each other? (-From the word "eros" we ultimately get the word 'erotic'). And what does the term "Intimacy with Jesus" mean to you? Would it surprise you to learn that many are now using it to mean sensual "romantic" encounters with Jesus - with Him as the Bridegroom and them as the 'Bride'?

You may think that such unscriptural practices must be out on the "fringe" somewhere. Surely they cannot be part of mainstream Christianity? Well, look around you, because this stuff is now everywhere. I live very close to one of the world's largest and most influential prayer centers here in Kansas City - and it has been a major source of this "Jesus as Romantic Lover" teaching for many years. And now it is all around the world. At this center you will find hundreds of young men and women who will tell you about being "ravished" for Jesus, "kissing" Jesus and 'swooning' in His arms, etc. Their entire understanding of "WHO GOD IS" and their relationship with Him is being shaped by this teaching. -And it is an utter twisting of Scripture.

Why is it important to have a right concept of "WHO GOD IS"? Why does it matter so much? Well, this one thing shapes everything else about our faith and our relationship with the Lord. At the heart of a lot of cults and deceptions is a fundamental mis-apprehension of the true character and nature of God - ie. "Who He is - How we approach Him". It really does affect EVERYTHING.

Now, imagine that there is a new doctrine that re-invents our very understanding of God - a doctrine that sweeps the world and catches up many young people. So, is this new doctrine based on a careful exegesis of the New Testament, you ask? -No! To your surprise you find that it is largely based on "spiritualizing" the SONG OF SOLOMON. Yes, that's right. An entire re-inventing of our relationship with God based not on the New Testament, but on Solomon's love-poetry about the body and breasts and comeliness of one of his 700 wives. -Wonderful poetry to be sure,

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!

MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

RECENT BOOK-

REVIVAL HYMN -Very powerful

5000 YOUTH SHOCKED -Paul Washer

RAVENHILL! Life-changing

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SEE MORE VIDEOS

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07) - Andrew Strom

"THRIVE IN THIS CRISIS" (-Oct 08) - Andrew Strom

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THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL

"TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH"

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)
- Andrew Strom

"THE TRUE GOSPEL - HAVE WE EVER HEARD IT?"
- Andrew Strom

"DEEP DEALINGS (My Testimony)"
- Andrew Strom

"THE THUNDERING SONG"

"PRAY ALONG WITH AGONIZING PRAYER"
- Listen & Pray!

"THE COMPROMISE SONG"

"STREET REVIVAL IS COMING!"
- Andrew Strom

"THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD"
- Andrew Strom

"OUTSPOKEN!"
-Andrew Strom.

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

but what kind of basis is that for such a drastic change in our basic beliefs?

(So is there no benefit to be gained from an 'allegorical' understanding of the Song Of Solomon? -Certainly there is! Hudson Taylor and others used it this way. But that is not the point I am making. The real issue is this:- Should we re-invent our entire understanding of "Who God is" and how we approach Him - to fit in with a tiny book of semi-erotic poetry from the Old Testament? Should this become our dominant understanding of God?)

As history shows us again and again, to the equal degree that we lose our grasp of the real character and nature of God - to this same degree we will lose genuine Christianity. You cannot have the true New Testament Faith if you have lost the true New Testament Jesus. -Which is why it is so serious when people say that in the West today we have invented a kind-of "American Jesus" to suit our self-centered, "me"-focused lifestyle. They point out that today you mostly hear of a Jesus who exists to make you "happy" rather than holy, a Jesus who is always a "friend" but never a Judge, a Jesus who does not any longer hate sin or demand repentance, but only wants you prosperous and 'blessed'. This is a Jesus that utterly suits our selfish Western mindset, but is found nowhere in the Bible.

And the new "Jesus As Lover" doctrine is just another twist in the ongoing tale of modern Christians distorting the character and nature of God.

Does Jesus love us? Of course He does - more than words can tell. And are we to love Him? Of course! -With all our heart, mind, soul and strength! But does this mean that we are to approach Him with a sensual "romantic" love, like some adolescent schoolgirl, "swooning" and smooching with our 'lover' Jesus? Is that what God's love means? Are we to exchange 'agape' for emotional "eros" and act like Jesus's "girlfriend" here on earth? (-Men as well as women?) God forbid!

Of course we know that in Scripture the corporate body of Christ (particularly at the end of the age) is described as the "Bride" of Christ. But isn't it obvious that this is talking about the 'CORPORATE' Body - not individual Christians? Are we each to become Jesus's little "girlfriends" here on earth - or is it the "WHOLE BODY" that is to one day be the Bride of Christ? -Clearly it is the latter.

The effect of this doctrine on young men is particularly distressing. To describe it as "effeminate" is quite an understatement. As it is, the modern church is already known for being an "anti-masculine" zone, with its flower displays, pink walls, mauve carpets, emotion-laden music, etc. A lot of commentators point to this when discussing the low attendance of men in our churches. But this new doctrine takes this theme to undreamt-of depths.

Can you imagine zealous praying young men who relate to Jesus (ie. another MALE) as a "lover" whom they kiss and 'swoon' over? Can you imagine what happens when this becomes their basic approach to God? -And this is just the beginning of the gender- bending weirdness that is starting to become "normal" in this movement. (Some are in such deception that they even have experiences of "Jesus" kissing them on the mouth, etc. The movement itself warns against "sensual encounters" but their very teaching leads directly to this kind of thing. Deceiving spirits are always super-active in this kind of environment. Where do you think the famed 'incubus' and 'succubus' originate from?)

The ironic thing is that a lot of the people who are into this doctrine claim to be "seeking Revival". They really think that this is the kind of 'intimacy' that God desires. It is greatly influencing the modern 'Prayer' movement, the Prophetic movement and the 'Worship' movement (-which explains the recent rash of songs with "Song of Solomon" type themes: "I kiss you with the kisses of my mouth", "Take me into your chamber", etc).

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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I find their talk of "Revival" particularly ironic, because I have studied Revival for many years, and I am aware that all the old Revivalists prayed to a God who is very different from what is being presented here. -And their understanding of "WHO GOD IS" was utterly crucial to their obtaining Revival. They prayed to a God of holiness and majesty and awe - a God of glory who hates sin, yet sent His son to die for sinners.

The God that the old Revivalists prayed to was the "throneroom" God that Isaiah described- "I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple... And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: The whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke." (Is 6:1-5).

This is the "throneroom" God who is described again in Revelation chapter 4 - where we are told that the four beasts cry, "Holy, holy, holy" day and night without ceasing, and the 24 elders cast down their crowns before His throne - over and over again. It is "HOLINESS" that is the chief characteristic of God! No other characteristic is ever repeated three times together in the Bible - let alone over and over, day and night! -"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY."

And actually, the full title of the book of Revelation is the "Revelation of Jesus Christ". So in other words, it is a 'revealing' of who Jesus is and what He is really like. And when John (the 'beloved' disciple) first sees the glorified Christ in Revelation 1, we are told that such is His terror-inducing holiness and glory that John fell at his feet "as though dead." -This is the true Jesus - as He really is.

In every true Revival, it is the God of majesty who reveals himself. For Revival is the "Glory of God" coming down. It is His very 'throneroom' presence coming down amongst men. Thus, even His own children should approach Him with awe. And if we do not pray to this God, then we should not expect Revival at all. -That is one of the basic lessons of Revival history. -We must pray to the 'RIGHT GOD' if we are going to see true Revival.

Incidentally, the 'Bride of Christ' in Revelation is described as a 'holy city' - a "new Jerusalem" coming down from heaven. (Rev 21). So it is clearly a 'CORPORATE' entity that exists at the end of the age. -Not some individualized "girlfriend of Jesus" in the here-and-now.

It is a very serious thing to tamper with our understanding of 'WHO GOD IS' and how we relate to Him. In a lot of ways it is like preaching "another Jesus". -It really is that bad. If you hear phrases today like 'Lovesick for Jesus', 'Bridal Paradigm', "Bridal intimacy", "Inflamed heart", 'Romancing', "Ravished", 'Fascinated', etc, then you can be pretty sure that you are being exposed to this deceptive doctrine. I believe it is serious error, and I urge you to flee from it as far as you can, my friends.

READERS REPLY TO THE ABOVE ARTICLE:

"D--" writes:

I ran into this a few weeks ago at our home fellowship. A woman whom I see to be very Spirit filled, was talking to us at the dinner table about being taken into the "upper chambers" where Jesus laid her down on a bed of roses (because He is the Rose of Sharon He can do that, she said), and that He made love to her. She described to me this whole scene as if it were out of a romance novel. The thought of Jesus actually making love to me made me sick... I was actually disheartened, grieved and shocked that she was talking about this. What gets me is that her friends who were

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with her all agreed as if this was sound biblical doctrine.

[NOTE: The above email is not from Kansas City - but rather from elsewhere in the USA. It is a good example of what is happening as this doctrine spreads around the world. Please note that the prayer center in Kansas City does NOT teach in any way that we should have sexual or 'physical' encounters with Jesus. However, their teaching certainly lays the groundwork for it - and is the ultimate cause of it, in my opinion. Their claim is that it is "immature" believers who are misusing and distorting their teaching.

Well yes - of course! But they are actually preaching it to thousands of "immature" believers themselves! In fact, this seems to be their "target" audience. The hundreds of young people at their own prayer center boast an average age of 22 years, reportedly. So yes - a whole lot of "immature" believers are being greatly influenced by this doctrine. Tell me then - whose fault is this? Is it right for the KC leadership to simply wash its hands of the evil effects that this doctrine is having around the world? Isn't this actually the "fruit" of this teaching? -Isn't it producing "bad fruit" wherever it goes?]

"J----" writes:

I just went to a ladies retreat two weeks ago and the theme was this same "lover Jesus" as portrayed in a book they used called, "With an Everlasting Love"... It was so Godless and selfish and full of "eros", putting thoughts and feelings in whoever reads it that certainly did not bring glory to God... I now have the opportunity to confront the pastor's wife about this teaching that literally every woman fell for (except me!) and was "wooed" by their sensuality as women and the need for love, that they sucked it right up.

"R---" writes:

I moved here to KC 2 years ago to attend [the Prayer Center]... I have been so confused by the whole up-sweep of the "Bridal Paradigm" and ravished heart of Jesus and Song of Solomon. I cannot relate to Jesus as romantic lover, nor do I want to!! I am trying to have clean thoughts and a pure heart. I want a Godly husband to be that for me, to model Christ's love and headship. All my friends tell me, "Jesus is your husband - let Him be your first love and your provider". As if I should shun men and give up on the idea of marriage.

The Editor of a Prophetic Newsletter - who follows the whole movement closely - writes:

I too have been concerned about this for a while. In particular I have seen much written about intimacy without any reference to obeying the revealed will of God. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey my commands." The intimacy emphasis is not just out of balance, it is dangerously soulish, promising emotional experiences and opening up the way to deceiving spirits if pursued too far.

"C---" writes:

What's amazing is how the presence of this teaching is like yeast. For a few years I was among believers who had absorbed 'bridal paradigm' teaching out of KC. It had a weird way of rubbing off. Even though I'd never even encountered it myself directly, for awhile I'd unwittingly absorbed some of it & had some dreams I now know came from unclean spirits. Thankfully my discernment antennaes began picking up on & rejecting the unholy nature of all this. Like many such excesses, it's the mixture that results when deception is mingled with the pure revelation of the Spirit that's so very,

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very deadly.

"L---" writes:

There is a strange message behind this Bridal Paradigm. -It was shown at the CALL in Kansas City. I was there. I witnessed this. There was a call to all those young people who were in attendance at this KC gathering and a few older - to pledge a marriage covenant right then that night to be MARRIED to Christ.

There was a Marriage Canopy held up for a marriage procession as hundreds marched under it as to become covenantly married to Christ. They made it seem so righteous and holy - So - many threw away their discernment and followed the leaders - forgetting that the marriage actually takes place in heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

CBN NEWS REPORT - JAN 6, 2002:

"THE CALL" IN KANSAS CITY:
A Marriage Covenant with Jesus.
By Wendy Griffith, CBN News Reporter.

Some 20,000 mostly young people packed the Kansas City Convention Center on New Year's Eve for a wedding ceremony unlike any other... as each person who came embarked on a marriage covenant with the Bridegroom of Heaven... From noon until midnight they danced and sang, fasted and prayed, and got ready to get married to Jesus.

"There's going to be a wedding and God is raising up friends of the Bridegroom to prepare the church, there's going to be a wedding!"

One by one, thousands of men and women, young and old, made their vows and walked under the prayer shawl symbolizing their commitment to Jesus.

[A COMMENTATOR NOTES: The huppah is in fact an integral part of a binding WEDDING CEREMONY between man and woman; therefore what these young people were doing was getting married - but to whom? The Bible tells us that the marriage of the Lamb takes place "in heaven" and only at the Day of Redemption when all believers are gathered in. It does not take place on earth as a "preparation" for the Lord's coming].

Continuing the CBN Report...

"Stewart Greaves, a 30-year-old, said, "I really feel like the Lord is calling young people to fall madly in love with Him. I've always felt that the difference between religion and relationship is intimacy with Jesus..."

Here in Kansas City, there has already been a tremendous focus on the bridal love of Jesus... where for three and a half years, a team of prophetic singers, intercessors and others have held 24-hour-a-day praise and worship focusing on Jesus as the bridegroom.
[-END of NEWS REPORT].

FROM a BOOK that is Required Reading at the School of this Kansas City prayer center:

"He [God] has given Himself to both the exhilarations and the woundings of a lovesick heart. When He gazes upon me, He sees through the eyes of love and desire. He comes before me and says, 'I am a Man in love. I am a God that burns with desire, and I have set My affections on you. I am an all-consuming fire of love, and you are the inheritance that My Father has promised me. Will you receive My love?'" (Pg 57).

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"O Gaze Eternal,
How penetrating are Your Fires
Rushing through my darkest places
With the burning streams of Desire
Leaving me naked, purged and bare
... Yet embraced...
You take hold of my weakest places
And kiss them with Your mercy
Lifting up my low grounds
With your mighty love so holy..." (Pg 52).

"She lifted her arms wide to the Lord and said with all of her strength and her love, 'Enjoy me. Right here, right now, in my absolute weakness, enjoy me.'" (Pg 84).

[NOTE: The above book goes on and on in a similar vein for 200 pages. We remind you again that this is an officially recommended publication at this Kansas City prayer center, with a Foreword by the LEADER of the movement himself. It is "Required Reading" for the young people at their ministry School.

When they talk about a Bridal "Paradigm" - what do they mean? Well, a 'paradigm' is a new mindset or "world-view". These people are now viewing Jesus and Christianity through an entirely new set of lenses, so to speak - ie. Through this 'BRIDAL' Paradigm. -For many, that is now their dominant understanding of Jesus Christ.]

TRUE "INTIMACY" WITH GOD

by Andrew Strom

With all this talk about the error of the "Jesus as Romantic Lover" teaching, I don't want to give the impression that I am against having a deep relationship with God. The fact is - my whole ministry is devoted to bringing people into a closer and closer walk with Him - a walk of truly deep communion. But there is one very important difference. -And it is all to do with the 'CHARACTER' of God, and how we approach Him.

Since I was 17 years old - when I first went through a true "Revival" experience in my life - I have found myself in deep communion with God in prayer. Many times I have found myself (as it were) in the very 'throneroom' presence of God, where all I could do was behold His glory and majesty in awe - often with tears streaming down my face. "HOLY HOLY HOLY". Sometimes I have been unable to speak or utter any word for hours at a time - because what words are sufficent for such things? -This is the God that I came to deeply love. -A 'HOLY' God. And I believe that 'knowing' God deeply in this way is for every believer. In fact, this is what I spoke about at our recent 'Gathering'. -'Personal Revival' and coming into a state of deep communion with Him. I am totally committed to the fact that this is God's will for every Christian. -Nothing 'unusual'.

But there are "foundations" that must be laid to come into this. And one of the most important of these foundations is a right understanding of God as a 'HOLY' God. -I mean deeply and utterly "Holy". -Holy beyond words and almost beyond comprehension. The more we get a grasp of God's HOLINESS, the more we ourselves desire holiness, and the closer and closer to Him we become. I have seen this and I know it is true.

We all know the Scripture- "The FEAR of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." But what a lot of us don't realize is that it is through this reverential 'Fear' of the Lord that we ultimately come into a deep 'LOVE' relationship with Him. It is utterly crucial that we embrace His judgments and holiness - as well as His mercy and grace. And as this foundation of God's glory and holiness and majesty is laid in our hearts, our whole approach to Him changes.

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We start to see Him as He really is - in all His GLORY - and we start to LOVE Him more and more. And as His holiness works its way more and more into our lives, we come closer and closer to Him - not in any "romantic" or 'sensual' way, but in a 'HOLY' way. -This is a major secret of the 'Revived' life: Apprehending the 'HOLY' character and nature of God. -That is where it starts.

Which is why I have such a problem with the "Jesus as Lover" teaching. -Because it brings God down to "our level" - a sentimental 'romantic' level rather than a 'throneroom' one. It is an awful distortion. I believe it actually ruins a lot of people's relationship with God - rather than helping it. In many ways it is a "false Jesus" that is being preached - and the approach is completely wrong.

I know from Scripture and all Revival history that it is the God of GLORY and HOLINESS - the "throneroom" God - that we must get to know if we are to come into the deepest heart communion and intimacy with Him. The 'Fear' of the Lord really is the beginning of wisdom.

Through the free gift of the cleansing blood of Jesus - a FREE GIFT - we can truly and deeply become the 'FRIEND' of the King of Kings. -Now, how precious is that?? How many billions of dollars could you pay for that?? -We can actually become the 'FRIEND' of the God of all glory - Creator of the Universe. This is the God that we can come to deeply know and love. And the key is His 'HOLINESS'.

TO SUM IT ALL UP:

I am convinced that the "Jesus as Romantic Lover" teaching is more than just an over-emphasis. It is serious error, which is producing bad fruit all over the world.

But more than that, I regard it as an utterly "anti-Revival" doctrine. If you are a seeker of true Revival, then I cannot imagine a worse way to be sidetracked than this. It promises a new kind of "intimacy" with Jesus, yet delivers only cheap 'romance'. And it fights against true 'holiness' preaching (ie. Revival preaching) by bringing God down to a more earthy and soulish and sentimental level. You cannot ever conceive of it preaching "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." At the end of the day, I believe it simply preaches a 'FALSE JESUS'.

Of course, our culture today is saturated with sex and romance, so this "Romantic Lover Jesus" doctrine plays right along with that. But are we supposed to adapt our whole understanding of God to the sick culture of the day, or are we supposed to represent the TRUE JESUS as He really is - and change the world? Clearly the latter, of course. To change our gospel to make Jesus a "wooing" romantic lover, chasing his beloved and playing "hide & seek" with her, is obviously 'off' in a major way. But you can see why many of our youth are falling for it.

Of course, there is another distorted teaching related to this, which is also coming out of that same group in Kansas City. It is the over-emphasis on how much God aches and desires and takes "pleasure" in us - even in our "weakness" and 'brokenness' and sinfulness, etc. Again, when this is distorted and over-emphasized to such an extreme, it becomes an "anti-Revival" doctrine of the worst kind. I have been studying Revival now for over 20 years, and I would say that this kind of teaching is just about the worst barrier to true Revival in existence. Instead of exalting God, it portrays Him as excessively 'emotional', as He woos and enjoys us with His 'inflamed' heart - even in our 'weakness' (ie. sin). In other words, the seriousness of sin is down-played and "we" become the center instead of God. Again, this is in direct opposition to all true Revival preaching, and it simply amazes me that any "Revival-seeking" group would come out with it.

Of course, as we have intimated before, this "Bridal" teaching

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seems to distort or ruin almost everything it touches. 'FASTING' is another example. Here is what one person wrote about their encounter with 'Bridegroom' fasting: *"I have had experience with some ministry that included what they call a "bridegroom fast" where they mourn in "lovesickness" for the purpose of experiencing more of divine Love. Seems to be really over-emphasizing emotional experiences."* - Yes - exactly!

So is such 'Bridegroom' fasting actually pleasing to God? Does He even notice it at all? And what about their 'Bridegroom' PRAYING? Or their 'Bridegroom' MUSIC? (-Of which there seems to be such an abundance!) -Does any of it actually achieve what it is supposed to achieve? Or is it all based on a completely false perception of God?

These are the questions that need to be seriously considered by anyone who is thinking of getting involved in this movement.

God bless you all!
Andrew Strom.

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"LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!"

by Andrew Strom.

Aug 18, 2006

When I was a young Christian I was a total zealot. There is nothing wrong with that, but sadly I was often a zealot without wisdom - and also WITHOUT LOVE. I cared for "truth" more than I cared for people, and I did not even notice that I was often using Truth as a sword to crush people with, rather than set them free.

A lot of young zealous Christians are like that - but I was particularly bad because I had a 'prophetic'-type personality - very intense, very black and white. I would walk into a room full of Christians and start an argument at the drop of a hat. I was not afraid to "blast" anyone. Truth was king - the most important thing - and that was all I cared about. This was not just an "occasional" problem with me - this was the way I lived and breathed. Total, all-out zealotry.

I do not have this approach to life any more - though I still care deeply about truth. (-For that is the way God made me). Sometimes I will still debate things with people - though very rarely.

Over the years God changed me utterly. In fact, to change my hardened heart He had to break me and break me and break me some more. And each time He did so, a little bit of LOVE got in. I'm sure He is still doing so today.

I started to realize that from God's point of view, the most precious thing in all the earth is PEOPLE. We can see this in the most famous verse in the Bible- "For God SO LOVED the world...." There it is - He so LOVES PEOPLE. He sent His son to die for PEOPLE. That is what it is all about.

There is an old Maori saying from New Zealand, which I have to love- "The most valuable thing in all the world is PEOPLE, it is PEOPLE, it is PEOPLE."

And yet to me in those early years, it was not "people" that I deeply cared about at all. The only thing I deeply valued was the 'Truth' that I was trying to put across that day. And so I attacked and spiritually "hacked" at people all day long. I was a walking nightmare.

Do you realize the sheer amount of 'breaking' that has to go on in someone like that - to get them to LOVE? -Years and years of awful crushing and brokenness. -Because I was SO BAD - seriously - I was a danger to the church and to myself.

If you love your 'Truths' more than you love people, then you are an out-and-out Pharisee. Nothing less. And you will create condemnation and death in people, rather than 'conviction' and LIFE.

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!

MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

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"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY" - Andrew Strom

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WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL

"TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH"

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)
- Andrew Strom

"THE TRUE GOSPEL - HAVE WE EVER HEARD IT?"
- Andrew Strom

"DEEP DEALINGS (My Testimony)"
- Andrew Strom

"THE THUNDERING SONG"

"PRAY ALONG WITH AGONIZING PRAYER"
- Listen & Pray!

"THE COMPROMISE SONG"

"STREET REVIVAL IS COMING!"
- Andrew Strom

"THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD"
- Andrew Strom

"OUTSPOKEN!"
-Andrew Strom.

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

But if you can get BROKEN enough to truly LOVE PEOPLE - and value them more than anything in this earth - and then speak Truth to them out of that place of love - then you will become greatly effective. It is all about becoming BROKEN and learning to LOVE others from the heart. If you ask Him to, God will do "whatever it takes" to get you to that place.

This is not to say that you will never speak direct or piercing words. You will - but the whole motivation will be different. In fact, EVERYTHING will be different. You may be very confronting, and speak very direct truths - but it will be in the right spirit. And this God can greatly anoint.

I got a disturbing email recently from a relative of someone on our List who says that this person uses some of the things we send out as "ammunition" to attack people or argue or divide from them, etc. Listen, friends, you can do anything with Truth. You can use it to beat people up or set them free. You can use it to become the most "negative" person on the planet, or you can allow it to break your heart and make you a closer follower of Jesus. You can use it in love, or you can use it in zealous self-righteousness to hammer and condemn people. It is up to you - and the true state of your heart.

All I can pray is that those reading this will stop and consider for a moment. Don't be like me, and take years to discover these most basic things.

Let me ask you a simple question- Do you truly LOVE PEOPLE more than the 'Truths' you are trying to make them listen to? Do you value them as God does - and realize that He sees them as the most precious thing in all the earth? (-Especially His children).

How deeply can we come to realize this truth - that GOD LOVES PEOPLE. Yes - repeat it - "GOD LOVES PEOPLE". -And so must we, if we are to represent Him on this planet.

Please PRAY about these things, my friends?

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"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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Love's Obedience

Mary Clark

Marianna, Florida

(A Prophetic Exhortation)

October 19, 2008

Love's obedience is a wonderful thing, dear child of the living God, a wonderful thing! Look on it as such, knowing that I ask nothing of you that is not beneficial to you and to My cause - nothing.

Now hear this! Now hear this! I have a plan, a glorious plan. It is to bless you, moving you forward into My will for you. It is to show you My heart, revealing to you the wonder of serving the living God. Get ready to receive. Get ready to walk in the promised newness of life in a way you have never dreamed possible.

It is a grand hour to be alive, beloved, a grand hour. Walk in love's obedience with sure steps into your future, into the promised life anew that I have for you, My beloved, My own!

Listening Ears
Mary Clark

Constrain

Mary Clark

Marianna, Florida

October 18, 2008

constrain - 1. to force into, or hold in close bounds; confine 2. to hold back ; restrain 3. to compel; oblige

2 Corinthians 5:14,15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dear: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

I tell you truly, beloved, that by My Spirit residing within you, I can do a mighty work. I can lead you along My path of righteous. I can show you the way that is most pleasing to your Beloved. This is a fine opportunity for one who delights to do the will of God, their heavenly Father, a fine opportunity. Regard it as such. Regard it as a fine opportunity to step into the design of your Father's will with both feet, and an eagerness to see His will done, performed mightily in your lives.

I am a respectable God. I do all things well. None of My attempts are futile; they all accomplish all that I desire. Regard this truth as what it is - truth. Regard My way as the way to follow, and know deep within that the Spirit of your God is able to lead you along His path of righteousness for the explicit reason of blessing you and having My will shine forth!

Driving Passion

Mary Clark

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October 17, 2008

Let your driving passion be to serve your God. Let your whole heart be alert to His call.

I tell you truly, beloved, that there is no greater cause than the cause of the Lord God Almighty. No greater cause! Bear this truth in mind. Look to Me when things seem difficult. I will see you through. Look to Me to deliver My finest to you.

I am a God with a purpose. It is a good purpose. My ways are always good and benefit My cause. What is My cause? To have My beloved home with Me, with Me forever.

Many look at their lives on earth as the ultimate. I hear words like, “you only live once,” and “you only pass this way once.” That is true, beloved. You have only one life on this earth, one life in which to prosper doing My will and looking to Me. Let serving Me be your driving passion while you are on earth, for you will only pass this way once. You will have only this one time to serve Me in the capacity to which you have been called.

Do surrender to Me wholly and let your driving passion be to follow My course. This is a decision that you will never regret, beloved, never regret for a moment. You’ll see, dear one. Trust Me when I tell you that you will see that My words of truth are beneficial to you now and will be beneficial to you for all eternity. For I do nothing now that does not influence eternity. All of My decisions and actions are eternal. Trust Me when I recommend that you let your driving passion be to serve your eternal King with all that is in you. Trust Me in this. I won’t fail you, beloved. I could never fail one of My own. Never!

The Righteous Judge
Mary Clark

October 16, 2008

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

I tell you truly that I am the righteous judge. I judge fairly. I judge out of a heart of love. Meditate on this verse, beloved. Let it seep into your very heart, knowing that you will be judged by the One Who is fair, with righteousness through and through.

The world judges according to its standard. That standard may change from person to person, from region to region, but My standard is constant. It changes not from person to person, or from region to region. It is always the same. It is always just.

So regard Me, the Holy One, and My standard with much hope in Whom I am to you. I am your God, just and true in all of My ways. I judge according to the standard set forth in My words of truth. Do not look on My word as a difficult taskmaster, but as a truth declared in order for you to have rules by which to live. Know that I declare to you the proper way, the best way, and desire for you to walk in it. Know that I am in you, by the power of My Spirit, strengthening you all the way. I declare that I want to see you receiving mightily from My hand. I want to see you walking undaunted by the enemy, with your eyes fixed firmly on the Almighty One; the One Who brings hope and peace to your precious heart.

Think on the truth in these words that I have spoken and which still ring with truth today, and know, dear one, that the righteous Judge has His eye on you to bless you and move you forward. I declare that I want the best for you. I want to see you prosper in your walk with Me. The enemy would have you believing that I stand with a large club poised to strike you down at the least infraction. But I tell you,

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beloved, that My arms are poised to receive you, clasp you to Myself, and speak words of love and tenderness to you. Think on this truth. Know that My word will live on forever. Know that I am righteous in all of My ways, and contemplate the truth that your righteous God and Judge has an eye to bless you, move you forward, and see you rewarded on that fateful day, that glorious day of My appearing.

Ubiquitous
Mary Clark

October15, 2008

ubiquitous - ever-present, everywhere, omnipresent

I am a ubiquitous God. There is no escaping My presence, dear one. No. There is no escaping My loving presence. Think on this, precious child, and know that this is a good thing – the constant presence of the living God in your life - a very good thing!

You see, beloved, I look on you lovingly. I am not a stern, heavy-handed God. I am tender and loving. I desire to see you prosper in your life. I desire to see you fulfill your calling. There is no greater thing than fulfilling the calling of the living God in one's life.

So think on the fact that I am a ubiquitous God, and know, precious child, that Someone Who loves you very much is watching over you, watching over you carefully, and wants His best for you!

A Merciful Work
Mary Clark

October 14, 2008

In a vision, I saw a knife cutting away large chunks of something. What was that all about, Lord?

I tell you truly, beloved, that I am doing a serious work in this hour, a work that will not only get the world's attention, but My church's attention, also.

Know this: During this process much will change. Much will take on a totally new look, but the hand of the Almighty God will not fail in its endeavor to bring about His will, His will in the lives of those who have vowed to serve Him.

I am a good God, a God of great mercy. The world does not understand My mercy. The world thinks that one should suffer in the face of all adversity that comes. The world looks on those who falter in this life with scorn. But I offer a helping hand to those who falter. I extend My hand in accordance with My will to bless, to aid in this life.

So know this: I am at work cutting away much that the world looks upon as necessary. I am cutting away things that I deem unnecessary, and My work will bring a new look to many of those things that My church has held dear. The world will think that the work that is being done is just desserts for My church, but I want you to know now, today, that My work is a merciful work and it will bring about the required results, the results that will usher in a new season, a new day, when My church will rise up in the might and power for which it was foreordained, to grow, and all shall see and know that the true and holy One does reign in the lives of His chosen, does reign in power and might in the church that He holds so dear!

The Balance Scales

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Mary Clark

October 11, 2008

You have been weighed in the balance, and come up wanting. I tell you truly that the will of the living God will not be thwarted; it shall come to pass.

I am balancing the scales, beloved. I am the Holy One, the all-powerful One, Who has seen fit to intervene on your behalf and balance the scales.

Look forward to My work, beloved. Look forward to seeing the Almighty intervene, placing all to right.

I have called you into a more meaningful relationship with your Beloved, your God. I am doing a mighty work on your behalf. Look forward to seeing all develop according to My will and know, beloved, the work that I do will benefit My kingdom. It will enable you to grow in the might and power of your God, and it will call others into that place of bliss that is found only in knowing the One true God.

I tell you truly that I am balancing the scales. I am doing a mighty work on your behalf. Grow in the deep knowledge of My love for you, and know that I have selected you to display My glory-filled love to the masses. Whoever will come into that region of wonder that is found in knowing and serving the Almighty God, the One Who has seen fit to balance the scales of justice by the might and power that He possesses in abundance and delights in showering on His very own beloved, His own, will know the essence of My love, will grow in My might and power. They will see My kingdom come, My will done on earth as it is in heaven. Look forward to it. Look forward to seeing the vast display, and know that it all comes according to My will, according to My will to see all abundantly pardoned!

From Sea to Shining Sea
Mary Clark

October 10, 2008

When we were praying over a map of the United States last week, I heard the Lord say, “from sea to shining sea.” I knew then that He had a word for America, and here it is:

I want My beloved to know something and regard it as the truth that it is. I am the God and Creator of all things. There is nothing that was created or will be created that does not have My stamp on it. I, and I alone, am the Creator, the Creator of the whole universe. Regard Me as such!

Look on the coming days with the knowledge that the One Who created all things knows all things, is well aware of all that is taking place. Nothing catches Me off guard. Nothing surprises the Holy One. I am fully aware of all the situations that are occurring in your midst, fully aware. Regard this truth and receive the peace that lies within, for it is a wonderful thing to know that the Holy One is fully apprised of every situation that is taking place and every situation that will take place.

Look on the events of the days ahead knowing that the One Who is holy and just is tweaking some areas of your life. He is getting you ready for something BIG, something so BIG that I will need to have you on your toes, fully able, fully capable of what I am bringing to your doorstep.

I am a good God with a good plan. My plan shall be carried forth according to My will. My beloved children will walk in the hope of a new tomorrow in Me. They will know that I have the key that unlocks their future and I plan to use it in the proper hour. I plan so show My hand when the time is right, and I plan to move My beloved church into an era of great wonder and splendor.

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The world does not and has never understood My plans or Me. My ways of doing things have always baffled those who have chosen the world's ways. They just can't seem to get the gist of My thinking, My ways of doing things. My ways are totally foreign to them, totally foreign. That will not change. Oh no! When I present My coming scenario, the world will not understand. The world will be totally baffled! But My dear children will smile with the knowledge of the wonder of what they know that I am presenting. They will be astounded at My mighty works, but know that I am the One presenting all that they are seeing. They will see, they will know, that the true and holy One is presenting a last day scenario that will usher in His return, and they will worship Me. Yes! They will worship Me for this most astounding presentation.

So get ready, beloved. Get yourself ready to receive from the hand of your God the wonder of a new day. For in so doing you will be acknowledging My will as it shines forth and you will rest in the knowledge and wonder of Who I am and what I am bringing to pass among the inhabitants of earth. Yes! My will shall shine forth from sea to shining sea. My will shall shine forth for all the inhabitants of earth to see and regard the work of the Almighty as He presents His last day scenario that will draw whomsoever will come into the loving embrace that I offer, offer to one and to all!

Your Great Quest
Mary Clark

October 9, 2008

Let your one great quest be to follow after the heart of your Beloved. Let Me explain: I am your God. I have your best interest at heart. The more time that you spend with Me, reading My word, talking to Me, the better you will know Me and understand My will for you. This is good advice. It is the best advice and if you heed it you will prosper in your walk, you will have great peace in your heart, and you will know the magnificent wonders of My grace which is extended toward you with an open hand, the open hand of your most loving God and Creator!

Be Relentless in Your Pursuit
Mary Clark

October 8, 2008

relentless – persistent, unyielding, unremitting, inexorable, insistent, ruthless
pursue – follow, chase, hunt, trail, tail, shadow, practice

Be relentless in your pursuit of Me, beloved. Be relentless, looking neither to the world or another to satisfy you. I am the only One Who can bring sweet, peaceful satisfaction to a heart, the only One.

So hear Me today: Seek Me and you will find Me. Pursue Me and I will make Myself available to you. I will be your constant companion. I will comfort you along life's way. Don't let anything come between us. Keep your focus. If you will do this, beloved, you will know a sweet, indwelling peace in your heart.

Don't let the enemy sidetrack you. Don't let the enemy have any of your attention. Focus on Me. See the dawn of a new day, a new hour, as I open all sorts of possibilities to you. That is the kind of God I am. I have an infinite supply of wonders to display to My beloved, an infinite number. Don't settle for less. Don't settle for a cheap copy. Seek Me. Seek Me first! Be relentless in your pursuit of Me, and know the wonder that comes with your persistence. You will step into the rich quality of My love with both feet, and be enraptured in My embrace. That is something the world cannot supply. That is something to which the world cannot hold a candle. Pursue Me first and know true heart bliss. Pursue Me first and know the wonder of My love. Pursue Me and know the wonder of My all-pervading peace. That is what I have for you, beloved. Pursue Me first. Always pursue Me first and foremost!

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The Coming Glory
Mary Clark

October 7, 2008

The coming glory of the Lord God Almighty is nothing to take lightly. It is power. It is filled with great wonder, and those who participate in it will know the wonders of My grace in ways they have never experienced.

So I tell you, beloved, get ready for the most glorious. Get ready to stand straight and tall in the wonder of the hour, for it is sure to bring a gladness to your heart. It is sure to open your eyes to My truth in ways you have never seen it.

I have a mission, and it is to take My dear children home with Me. My mission is to rescue all who will come, all who will accept My grace, this gift of perfection that I so gladly offer. I look forward to the coming hour. I look forward to seeing all who will come manifest My goodwill toward others.

Yes, you will certainly play a part in the hour that is presenting itself. You will play an important part. So get your heart ready to explore the wonders of My grace. Get your heart ready to recognize My goodwill and walk in it with all that is in you. For in so doing, you will step into that divine hour fully empowered, fully empowered by the One Who sought you, bought you, and now holds you securely, securely now and for all eternity in His arms of tenderness and love.

This is My desire: That none should perish, that all come to the realization of My truth. It is My desire for you to be living examples of My goodwill toward mankind, speaking My truth, offering that cup of water, offering that helping hand to whomever is in need. It is My desire to see you fulfill your calling, precious one. So stand erect. Move forward, and know the sense of satisfaction that comes with belonging to Me and walking in My glory, My glory that is fast approaching, and reaching hearts that were once lost to Me, but are SOON to be found in Me!

Spirit of Promise
Mary Clark

October 6, 2008

I give the Spirit of promise to those who will receive Me. My Spirit is sealed in that place of wonder deep within your heart. He resides there willingly. He resides there for a purpose and carries forth that purpose with expertise.

Look on this gift that I so ably provide to those who say yes to Me with a thankful heart. For in so doing, you will be acknowledging the finest of gifts, and come to know firsthand all that the Spirit of the living God supplies to one of His own.

I am your God. I look on you with pleasure. I have seen fit to seal your heart with My Spirit. My Spirit abides within the heart of My chosen vessels willingly. My Spirit brings to that heart all that can satisfy. I surround your heart with My loving kindness. I give you comfort that only I can bring. Receive all that I provide. Do not turn away from My instruction. Receive Me and all that I am. I bring hope to any heart that receives Me. I don't want you in despair; I want you eagerly accepting all that I bring your way, with the knowledge that I do all things well and with a purpose.

My Spirit is strong within every willing heart. I reside there in great anticipation of what your future holds. I know your future backwards and forwards. I know the beginning to the end. I am excited about

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your future and eager to present it to you. Embrace it, beloved. Embrace all that I am bringing your way, for in so doing you will know the wonders of My grace.

I am the Spirit of promise. I promise you life and health, and every good thing from above. Look forward to stepping into the realization of this truth. Look forward to stepping directly into the love of your God and knowing the fulfillment that only I can offer, only I can give. This is the fulfillment that only I can shine forth to a heart fully surrendered to Me, the One Who is holy and true, the One Who offers the Spirit of promise, and supplies all that a heart needs now and for all eternity. Yes! I am the One Who is love, abounding in a surrendered heart, a heart sealed by the Spirit of promise.

I Speak
Mary Clark

October 1, 2008

I speak to you of hope, precious follower, hope in the One Who has designs, lovely designs, on your heart. Look forward to seeing the will of the living God unfold, and know, beloved, that the words that I speak over you will entitle you to soar, soar to the highest heaven and know the sweet, eternal essence of the dramatically life-changing results.

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McCain And Palin Prophecy To The Church
Cindy deVille

October 12, 2008

This is very unusual but, we humbly share this with you and His Church as God has directed us, for encouragement and prayer as exhorted below. Please do with as the Holy Spirit leads you.

You can view it online here: http://www.shekinahtoday.org/ieSKT_McCain-Palin_Word.html

It is also included below

For His Glory,
Cindy deVille
Shekinah Today

God desires to speak clearly and specifically to His Church in these last days. He does have a strategy, and **He is speaking clearly about the election, giving His people hope, and specific instructions.**

This word came VERY "unexpectedly" during a time of prayer, and I share this with you out of pure obedience. We pray it will bring great clarity, hope, and strength as it stirs your heart to pray as never before – for our Nation, our leadership, our Churches, and for a true Great Awakening!

McCain & Palin – Prophecy to the Church
October 12, 2008 – given by Cindy deVille

Please Note: *I do not take lightly what God has spoken or entrusted to me. With Godly fear I stand before Him, accountable to speak only His words as He instructs.*

Preface: During prayer for our nation, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Me to speak to His Church regarding the upcoming elections. I fought this at first because He has never spoken to me such specifics regarding an election. So I humbly share His word with you (1 Kings 22:14).

I keep hearing God say – regarding the elections
"I will move them in the right way when it comes election day."
The polls and the trends may look one way,
But when it comes to election day,
I'll move them the right way.
I'll move them the right way.

For I will have My way in this nation
For I hear the cries of My people, My creation, My people, I hear their cries
Those who are truly mine.
Yes this is a critical time, this is a crucial time
but I will move things My way, I will have My say
Continue to pray, continue to pray

For I am bringing all things into line, into line for the end of time.

(interlude - praying...)

I struggled with the release of this next part because it was so specific,
but this is exactly what the Lord was saying.

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I Hear God saying:
McCain, McCain, McCain
McCain and Palin, McCain and Palin,
McCain...

I will use them
They will be an answer to the prayers of My people
I will use them, I will move them in
I will use them to remove sin *(impact moral issues – legislation)*
I will use them
I am strategically moving them in
It is a part of the turning, it is a part of My plan

For this nation to turn back to Me again
So do not fear for what is coming near
Do not fear
For I will have My way, I will have My say
I've heard My people pray
I've heard them crying out to Me

Whatever must be done, Whatever must be done
Whatever I must do, I will do
And I will answer you, I will answer your prayers

(interlude - praying...)

I keep hearing Him say:
McCain and Palin, McCain and Palin
They are the ones, they are the ones
My Will, will be done, My Will, will be done
They are the ones, They are the ones
They will run, they will fight and they will do what's right

They will do what's right
They will do what's right
They will do what's right

They will not turn back as others have done
They will not turn away and run
But they will stand and fight and they will do what's right

For this is what I have prepared them for
And I will open up the door
For them to step in and for them to begin

For this nation will turn back to Me again
It will turn back to Me
And there will be a Great Awakening

Keep praying, keep praying, keep praying, don't stop praying
Tell My people to pray as never before
Tell them to pray night and day
Night and day tell them to pray
And they will see things change

They will see things change in their churches
They will see things change in the leadership
They will see all that I have spoken done

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For I am the only one who can change it
I am the only one who has the power to turn this nation back
So tell them to come to Me, and cry out to Me, and pray, pray, pray
Then they WILL see, they will – a New Day

I have spoken and it shall be done.

For I am the one that sets one down, and raises another up
Promotion comes from Me you see
So not matter what the polls say, know this – I shall have My way
I shall have My way."

His instructions to the Church were:
"Keep praying, keep praying, keep praying, don't stop praying

Tell My people to pray as never before, Tell them to pray night and day
Night and day tell them to pray, and they will see things change...

...So tell them to come to Me, and cry out to Me, and pray, pray, pray"

Please Note: Although God will use man to carry out His Plans and purposes in the earth and in our nation, our Hope must remain in God above all else! (Daniel 4;25).

Please share this with others for encouragement and prayer as the Holy Spirit leads

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Shekinah Today:
http://www.shekinahtoday.org

Earlier Words To America

America, America
Cindy DeVille

We usually don't submit prophetic words to places for posting, but this is so important and our nation hangs in the balance. This is from December 05, 2007 and was sent to the White House and other government officials due to it's content.

At this time we believe God is more concerned with the "soul of our nation" than the "prosperity" of it.

First, July 2008 – during a time of prayer Cindy (my wife) saw **America with her hands tied behind her back financially with no way to escape.** It's seemed she was being driven to her knees. and **in her weakened state, her enemies wanted to attack.** America's ONLY hope will be turning back to God. Until then it will get very hard on America, but ultimately it's for the good.

2. This is a follow up to an important "Prophetic Cry and Warning" to our nation called "America, America" from December 05, 2007. Some of it has already come to pass, speaking of the many "historic" natural disasters of 2008, and **what is now happening in the markets**, and **speaks of what yet to come...IF America does not turn and repent.**

You can read "America, America" here:
http://shekinahtoday.org/sktPW_AAmerica.htm
[See Below]

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Here's a quote it: *"For you must turn and repent, or I shall take your Glory and your wealth from you and you shall no longer be great, for in My hands America, I hold your fate. For I can cause your markets to fall in a day. All that you trust in will dissipate."*

3. The Lord also said:
"It MUST begin, repentance Must begin with My Church.
Must begin with the Leaders in My house."
http://shekinahtoday.org/sktPW_America-Decision-Path.htm
[See Below]

The Biblical pattern is clear in 2 Chronicles 7:14.
"If MY people will...humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, AND...TURN from THEIR Wicked Ways...
THEN I will hear from Heaven, forgive their sin, and heal your land."

We have been praying and fasting in regards to all this.

Fellow Servants of Christ

America Has A Decision To Make
Cindy DeVille

Which Path She Should Take

May 26, 2008 [A Prophetic Word]

A follow up to: "America, America" – Prophetic Cry & Warning

Preface: *During a time of intercession and prayer for America. Hear God's continued heart cry, warning America of what is to come, if she does not turn back to Him.*

Word of the Lord: "America Has A Decision To Make..." *(Given by Cindy deVille – May 26, 2008)*

For this nation has seen My goodness, And America has seen My mercy. America has witnessed My love, She has not seen My judgment. But if she does not repent and turn, she will see My judgment.

And it MUST begin – **Repentance Must begin with My Church. Must begin with the Leaders in My house.**

America has seen My blessings. They have seen great wealth. But America has not seen poverty. America has not witnessed a curse as other nations have. She has been protected, and she has been blessed by Me.

She will see poverty and she will see a curse, If she does not turn and repent.

America has witnessed peace within her borders. She has seen peace, and she has watched her children play, without fear of war in her borders. But peace will be no more, if she does not hear My cry.

America has a decision to make. Which path she should take.

Pray that she takes the right path. Pray for her. Pray that she will turn back to Me, So she can see My goodness and mercy.

For this is not as before, **This is urgent.** This is not as before, when I would send My messengers

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and speak, And I would extend my mercy, and extend my mercy, and extend my mercy. This is not as before.

For Judgment is standing right at the door. It's right at the door."

America A Prophetic Cry and Warning
Cindy DeVille

December 05, 2007

Preface:

This is the 2nd time in the last 3 weeks God has given me something like this. On the night of December 5th I was reading from George Washington's prayer journal. I then went to bed and was extremely restless and for several hours, lay on my side, curled up, weeping, whimpering as though I were in pain...I kept seeing the streets of America. I believe this was intercession, groaning of the Spirit of God for our nation (Romans 8:26-27).

Unable to sleep I got up and walked into the living room and had what seemed to be a vision.

For a moment it's as though ***I was standing in the middle of America and saw enemies all around trying to get in.*** *They were pressing from every side to get in. Then this word of prophecy and warning came, and I wrote it down...*

Word of the LORD: "America, America" – A Prophetic Cry & Warning *(Given by Cindy deVille – December 05, 2007)*

Many Enemies, Many, Many trying to get in! America, America, you are filled with sin. Guilty, Guilty you stand before me! You are weighed in the balance and greatly found wanting.

If you do not turn from your sin My protection over you shall subside and the enemies will come inside. For I've cried out to you, but you would not hear Me, for you no longer Love, Honor or Fear Me.

Judgment, Judgment, Judgment is standing at your door, It's standing at your door. Yet, will you sin more and more? You go on as if nothing is wrong.

Enemies, Enemies, Enemies, they all want in! America, America, you are filled with sin. You have exchanged My Glory and My truth for a lie. You have cast My word and every restraint aside. Turn away from your sin, turn away, pray, pray! Seek My face and I will turn your enemies away. I will not let them in. Free yourself America, turn from your sin. Turn from your perversions, your lusts and greed, humble yourself and cry out to Me.

Choose Life and not death! For the cries of the unborn are calling out to Me. The blood you have shed is knee deep. Turn, turn or you will see blood run in your streets. Turn Roe vs Wade or for all these lives you will surely pay. For as you have sown much death, so shall you shall reap.

Judgment is waiting, judgment is waiting, while you keep on debating. Turn, Turn, Turn or you will see your cities burn, there shall be bloodshed and war in your streets. For without My defense you will see defeat at the hands of your enemies! The Towers were just a warning. The Towers, New Orleans, New York City, the natural disasters, fires, floods, draughts, these are just the beginning of sorrows, warnings I am giving you this hour.

Why do you not heed, why do you harden your heart, why do you not turn and cry out to Me? HEAR MY CRY – for I long to shed My grace on thee. I want to show you My goodness and My mercy, but what else can there be. If you will not heed My warnings, My judgments must come, They will run, they will be swift and sure indeed. They shall be swift, they shall be sure, who can endure.

For I AM the God of all the earth, the wind and the sea at My command, they all obey Me! Natural

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Disasters will be multiplied unto thee because I have seen your sin and unrepentant heart. For you must turn and repent, or I shall take your Glory and your wealth from you and you shall no longer be great. For in My hands America, I hold your fate. For I can cause your Markets to fall in a day. All that you trust in will dissipate.

I cry out to you this last time, turn, turn, turn, repent, repent, repent. You must turn from your sin, then I can begin to heal and restore you. I long to show you My mercy, but you have turned Me away again and again – Away from your schools, away from your children. You have turned Me away from rule, from your government. You have rejected Me and You have given place to other gods.

So now, if you do not repent, I will leave as you have asked. My protection shall leave you, My goodness and mercy shall leave, and My glory shall leave you. You shall be left to your own ways. The enemies will come in and the devastation and destruction will begin.

America, America, America, I am your defense. Only you must turn from your sin. Turn back to Me and I will heal you and I will help you and I will cover you and show you My glory.

Humble yourself under My mighty hand as you did when you were young. Put no other gods before Me, then I will come and heal your land. This is My final cry to you. America, what, what will you do?

For the sake of your children, turn back to Me or all this devastation they shall see. I cry out to you, turn back to Me!"

EXTRA NOTE:

Shortly after this while reading news of an earthquake taking place at the United Nations Summit (they were talking about fears of "Global Warming" impact). God spoke to me and said: "They call it *Global Warming*, but know, these are My *Global WARNINGS*." www.shekinahtoday.org

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"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!

MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

THE EDITOR'S BACKGROUND

"MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE"

by Andrew Strom

Briefly, I had been brought up in a Christian environment all my life. My father was a Spirit-filled Baptist preacher before I was born, and was also a researcher and writer on Revival (-it runs in the family!) So when I myself became a Spirit-baptized Christian at the age of 17, there were all these books on Finney, Wesley, Evan Roberts, 'Azusa Street', etc, just waiting for me! So I was very interested in Revival and prayer right from the start of my Spirit-filled walk. When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, I also came under a very powerful prophetic anointing, though I had little understanding of it at the time. (What was "wrong" with me? - Why was I so distressed and devastated at the condition of the church when others seemed so comfortable with the status quo?) Fortunately I had all my Revival books which told me I was not alone, but merely one of many concerned Christians, right down through the ages. But I certainly felt very much alone a great deal of the time. (Apart from God of course - He was always there).

I became involved in a couple of churches - the main one being a fairly "hard-line" Pentecostal group. And because of my very brash youthful zeal in witnessing I did alright there, though I seemed to be always in some kind of trouble with the leadership. I just couldn't shut my mouth at the crucial time - I so longed to see the church in a true Revival state, and I was pretty brazen about my opinions (I certainly lacked for wisdom in those days!) I was also very "hard-line" legalistic myself in many ways. But God was training me and using me, almost in spite of myself.

But then it happened. Finally, after many run-ins and minor disputes, I came across what I felt were some pretty fundamental differences in doctrine between this church and me, and I finally left for good, after chafing for quite some time. But instead of going looking for another church, my wife and I banded together with some friends and tried to start our own group. But whereas before God's blessing had been with us, now it clearly was not, and nothing much came of what we were doing. God had some BIG lessons in store.

This was the beginning of a period of literally SEVEN YEARS totally outside the church system (from age twenty to twenty-seven) for myself and my family. (By this time I was married to a wonderful Christian wife and we were eventually to have six lovely children).

All through this period of wilderness, testing and spiritual trials, one thing I never gave up on was my nightly prayer-times with God. These were as blessed as ever, but often they were the only 'spiritual' thing I had going on in my life. Everything else seemed closed, empty, dead. This went on for year after year after year. I

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"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07) - Andrew Strom

"THRIVE IN THIS CRISIS" (-Oct 08) - Andrew Strom

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL" - Andrew Strom

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TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL

"TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH"

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)
- Andrew Strom

"THE TRUE GOSPEL - HAVE WE EVER HEARD IT?"
- Andrew Strom

"DEEP DEALINGS (My Testimony)"
- Andrew Strom

"THE THUNDERING SONG"

"PRAY ALONG WITH AGONIZING PRAYER"
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"THE COMPROMISE SONG"

"STREET REVIVAL IS COMING!"
- Andrew Strom

"THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD"
- Andrew Strom

"OUTSPOKEN!"
-Andrew Strom.

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

KNEW we were not to go back to church, yet nothing was happening. But if I visited a church, nothing was there for us either. All was desolation, and in the end I (who had once been the proudest, loudest, most hard-line arrogant witnessing machine) was so spiritually "crushed" that I could hardly bear to talk about spiritual things with anyone. Some may say that all of this was of the devil. Not so. GOD had led me out into the wilderness for a purpose, and He would lead me in from it in His good time. I was being humbled and broken, and every ounce of proud 'religious' life was being crushed out of me, that God might one day shine through.

During this time we slowly became aware of a network of "out-of-church" Christians right through New Zealand (and no doubt in many other countries also), who had all come out of various churches (-some had even been leaders). We would occasionally visit them on a casual basis, and we found that there were almost out-of-church "doctrines" amongst this group, which we came to imbibe ourselves. Much of this "doctrine" was more negative than positive. It often involved long litanies of everything that was wrong with the church system and it's leaders (a very soft and convenient target), often involving somewhat "mocking" sarcasm, and relief that we, the 'real' Christians were now out of it all. I fully partook in all of this with great relish, having my own chip on my shoulder, and my own resentments to nurse. And of course, the great "answer" that we smugly believed in, was to leave the churches altogether. We became quite suspicious of 'churchy' Christians who were still in the system - even if they were praying people who obviously walked close to God. How arrogant we were, once again! But after awhile even this began to pall, and I became so 'crushed' eventually that even mockery of the 'system' gave me little joy any more. All was vanity, all was nothingness. When would God ever move?

We got involved with Christian music (-my wife and I are both musicians, and we knew the history of Revival music), but we were just striving in the flesh during this whole period. God had us in 'prison', and we were going NOWHERE until we learned what He had to teach us. I had been praying for years, "God use me, God fill me more and more with your Spirit, God bring Revival", and here I was sitting in a spiritual 'dungeon' - and there was nothing I could do about it. Spiritually speaking, it was like being in a kind of "crushing machine". I was almost in despair at times. But this is what you will get if you ask God to 'break you and use you'. Don't be surprised if He takes you at your word!

My first band had become almost an "idol" to me by this stage (I was 26 years old) - as ministries often can. But one day, something dramatic went wrong that meant we would have to cancel a concert, and suddenly I KNEW - I just KNEW that this whole thing was not of God - it was me striving, striving, striving to "MAKE IT HAPPEN". And I knew in that instant that it was all over. This was my last holdout - the only spiritual ministry I had left, and it was not of God. The band was finished. We played our last couple of concerts and that was it. THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE. NOTHING BUT GOD.

And instead of striving and 'ministry-idolatry', I began to once again spend hours just basking in the presence of God, tears streaming down my face, just glorying in His presence - worshipping and communing with Him. And I began to come under a prophetic anointing the like of which I had never known, even at the beginning. I was 27 years old, and I had been in the Wilderness for seven years.

Suddenly God seemed to remove the old cloak of heaviness and replace it with a garment of praise. And He kept telling me the same thing over and over again: "REVIVAL IS COMING. REVIVAL IS COMING." (Sometimes I would literally leap for joy at the reality of this word). During one intense three-day period, God showed me how I could attack and destroy in Jesus' name, many of the strongholds of pride, rebellion, religion, etc, that had had a hold in my life for many years. And this is literally what I did. Glory to God! I tell you, I was transformed.

And God also began to introduce me to many praying and prophetic people (mostly 'in-church', though some were "out" - I didn't care what format or 'boxes' they fellowshipped in any more

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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- their relationship with God was what mattered). Many of these people confirmed what God had been showing me. And I also heard my first 'prophetic' tapes from overseas, which were amazing confirmation. Suddenly I was not alone! All those things God had been showing me down the years - He was showing others too! Suddenly, I began to feel I needed to write it all down, so others could share in what God was saying. (I hadn't been writing for years). A prophet prophesied over me and anointed me as a 'writer - watchman', and indeed God has blessed my writing more than I ever dreamed possible. Glory to God! No longer was I crushed and despairing in the Wilderness. I was mightily free in Jesus. But something important in me (in fact, a lot of things) had changed through that Wilderness journey. I was not the same person in many ways. (In fact many people could not believe the changes). God had crushed me and brought me to life again - His way. And many of the "rough edges" were gone forever. I was now far more reliant on Him - for everything. These were very crucial changes, and indeed, I think now, how could God ever have used me the way I was??

There are two points arising from all this that I would like to make. The first is that I believe God took me out of the church system mostly because of the faults in ME - more than in the church. (Though it is obvious that today's church does have serious problems, of course). He wanted to get me away into a desolate place and get rid of my arrogance, my pride, my brashness, my "hard-line" legalistic view of things. He also later dealt with my "superior", smug attitude towards 'churchy' Christians and systems, etc. He wanted to break me and humble me (at my request) because only then could He truly use me. What a devastating process! But how skilfully managed by God. He desires not to destroy us, but to save us from ourselves. How dark our hearts are, and how much we need to be broken and re-made in the image of His holy Son.

I believe that many prophetic people (like myself in those days) do have problems with "rebellion". They seem to rub leaders the wrong way almost by design sometimes. And then they develop a "persecution complex" or slink off wallowing in self-pity. I have done all of this and more. Rebellion is the most insidious sin, and when you begin to see how much it dominates our world, and how ingrained it is in us, it is a real eye-opener. This has been an absolute revelation to me in recent years. How deceitfully wicked is the heart of man!

On the other hand, I empathise with prophets speaking an unpopular word that comes from God's own heart, and being rejected. What a devastating experience for a prophet. We feel God's grief personally, because that is the way God has made us. Rejection for a prophet is like torture! I have been in these situations also. But I have found that it is only when you have dealt with Rebellion that you can trust yourself to speak only God's word to a leader. Rebellion can greatly affect the words we bring to leaders, and yet many prophets seem to hardly know they have a problem in this area. I can look back now and I wince at the influence of Rebellion over my words and actions in the past. But God does cleanse and heal.

Often now I see the leader's point of view when unwise prophets, consumed with hurt and rejection, arrive looking for something or someone to 'target'. So-called "prophets" like this are a curse, not a blessing. And I am painfully aware that my own past contains episodes like this. How on earth did God put up with me? The whole "lone ranger" thing IS a problem, and is quite unacceptable in any 'body' situation. There is simply no excuse for it at all. And I am right behind any leader who acts to protect the sheep from such people. That is a shepherd's job, after all. (But if all they are doing is protecting their own hide, and squashing the prophetic word - then judgement will surely follow the prophet's words - as sure as day). Prophets, let God vindicate you. Make NO ATTEMPT to vindicate yourself.

The other thing about Prophetic people and "out-of-church" types is the 'individualism' that can easily set in, and make them of little use to God in any real way, because they just cannot truly relate to a 'Body'. It is simply not possible to have a Body made up of individualists. It just does not work. A true Body has LEADERS. It has members who are "KNITTED TOGETHER". I am often

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amazed when I come across 'out-of-church' type material which encourages rampant individualism (-saying that being alone, away from the 'Body' is the only "answer") and then goes on to talk about the wonderful Revival that is coming. I tell you, unless you can KNIT INTO A BODY and relate well to leaders, and all the other 'Body' things, YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A PART IN THE COMING REVIVAL. It is just a pipe-dream. Some say they will relate well to the coming leaders, though they have trouble with all of today's leaders. Let me tell you: God is dealing with Rebellion now. If you can't sit under authority today, you will be a pain in the neck to tomorrow's leaders too. Deal with your rebellion now, or miss out. It's that simple. I believe a lot of problems could be caused by roaming "lone ranger prophets" in the coming move of God - even worse than today. Tell me friend, do YOU have the makings of being just such a "lone ranger"??

My second point is that the Wilderness IS a valid place to be for people who are being broken, trained and molded by God. Many of God's heroes, big and small, down the ages, have been personally dealt with by God in the Wilderness. And I believe that many of those whom God has been preparing to have a part in His new move have been taken through the Wilderness by God in our day. The Wilderness is not the answer in itself. It is a waypoint. If you get stuck in the Wilderness, like the children of Israel did, you are in trouble. If you like the look of the Wilderness more than the Promised Land, you are in BIG trouble. The Wilderness swallowed most of the children of Israel whole. They did not use it as preparation, like they were supposed to. They went to the place of testing and failed the test. But historically, the Wilderness has been a very important place of brokenness and training, where God has prepared men and women before using them in some way.

So I ask those who are "in church" not to belittle what is happening in the lives of some whom God has 'called out' for a time, just as I would ask that they not belittle you. There is much truth in the concept of God using the Wilderness not so much to get people "out of the system", but rather to "get the system out of people". We have got to un-learn many of our old 'Christendom' habits for this coming move, so as not to repeat them. This is not going to be a 'Christendom' Revival, with all the usual ways and trappings which we now take for granted. It will be an 'Out-of-Christendom' street-Revival. Why ruin it with the church ways we "always do things" today? This un-learning is one very important reason why I believe God has taken so many people out of Christendom for awhile, into the Wilderness. It is preparation for the coming move, which will be very different from now (but also very practical - just like the early church).

My hope in writing this has been to challenge both groups - those within and those without the system, to prepare in whatever way God would have you, for what He is about to do. And to promote understanding of the different paths that He has been leading His people on.

To get back to my own story for a moment, I am now 41 years old. My wife and I have been happily married now for 21 years, and we have six wonderful children. We eventually became involved in a Spirit-filled Salvation Army church, then a Baptist fellowship in New Zealand. And it was not long after that that God called me into full-time itinerant ministry. But my ministry has definitely taken on a more "radical" edge as time has gone on.

For many months I toured New Zealand, preaching on 'The Coming Street Revival' and urging people to pray for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. However, I noticed a real turning point in my preaching during my first visit to America in 2003. This came when I preached a message known as 'Thundering in Nashville'. A new boldness and authority to see people REPENT seemed to come upon me that day.

As you have probably realized, preaching is important to me because I have felt God's call and longing in my life ever since I was 17 years old - to be a true Revivalist - a'John-the-Baptist' type preacher like Finney and Wesley, etc. Even through the darkest years of my "wilderness" journey I always felt this call from God over my life. "Agonizing prayer" is one of the keys to this type of ministry, I believe.

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But it is only in the last couple of years that I have really seen signs of it coming to pass. There have been several turning points during that time. In August 2003, God woke me up at 4:00am one morning (-quite rare for me) and suddenly shone light on one of the keys to Wesley's and Finney's preaching that I had never seen before. In an instant I saw it and when I began to preach that message I started to see people repent with tears and confession of sin like I had not seen before. (-"Repentance in Kansas City" is this kind of sermon).

I continue to agonize for a true 'Revival' anointing on my preaching to this day. I am not satisfied, and God is not finished with me yet. But as well as Revival, God has clearly called me to preach "Reformation" as well, and this is the side of my ministry that is the most controversial and radical.

I am convinced that a great "SHAKING" - a wave of tremendous Reformation and "change" is coming upon the church. I believe we are currently in a 'lukewarm' state and God will not live with this. He is about to move in such a way that will greatly shock a lot of Christians. Everything about the church is going to change. We are going to return to the purity, the simplicity and the power of the early church - and for some people it is going to be a very "painful" transition.

So that is why this web-site was born. -To be a "clarion call" for change in the church.

Today our family lives in the USA - where we moved in Feb 2004. -A shift that God had been speaking to us about for many years.

I pray that this testimony has been a help and an encouragement to many who have a similar calling on their lives in this critical hour.

May God bless you all.
-Andrew Strom.

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Now I Arise To Answer Your Prayers for America

Mary Ellen Gilliland
Silverthorne, Colorado USA

www.zoebooks.com

October 13, 2008

I AM God. There IS no other. I will demonstrate My Self on the earth in an unprecedented way in this hour. Tremble, earth. Be not dismayed, oh My people, for your God is standing up to act. "Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered."

I am responding to your prayers, you who have cried out for righteousness, you who have mourned for your nation these past 40 years. A generation has sought My face and pleaded with Me to restore America. Now I will answer, says the Lord.

Renovation involves taking down and building up. Hang on through the demolition process for the end result, a good structure, is coming about.

Psalm 68: 1, 3 ***Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered. But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice with gladness.***

Dance With Joy Over The Coming Feast

Mary Ellen Gilliland

October 4, 2008

Come! Come with a heart of worship to the Great feast of Yahweh, the great Feast of Tabernacles. Educate yourself and come. Prepare your heart and come. "Keep" the Great Feast by dancing in joy over the greatness and goodness of your God. Rejoice.

For the Great Feast parallels the glory time we are moving into, when great, great joy will seize My people; when worship, pure as a pure stream will rise to Him in spirit and in truth; when the hearts of men and women - and children - will be focused on only Him.

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Therefore will the God of Heaven rejoice and "keep" the Feast, for the Father will dance as on a day of joy, as on a day of Festival. He will rejoice over you and renew you with His love. And the corn (strength), the wine (joy) and the oil (anointing) will pour forth for you as the land, even the good earth, rejoices with you.

Zephaniah 3:17 ***And the father will dance, as on a day of joy, of festival; He will rejoice over you and renew you with His love.***
Zechariah 14:16 ***And It shall come to pass that everyone . . . shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*** Note: the word "keep" is *chagag,* which is derived from the word for "feast." It means "to dance."

Book of Revelation Fulfilled
Mary Ellen Gilliland

October 2, 2008

My soul is indeed blessed, for My people are praising Me with a new praise, a "new song" in their hearts, which they are singing to Me. It is the sound of pure worship which I love and which I respond to with all My heart, with all that I AM. The Book of Revelation is being fulfilled. The mighty chorus of praise that John heard and witnessed, sounding like a mighty waterfall, is pouring forth now. For like a mighty, rushing waterfall, this praise has power and that power moves even your great God to "inhabit the praises of His people," to perform these praises, that He would demonstrate to them, His people, the majesty, power and kingly authority for which they praise Him. So rejoice, people of God, for God will watch over His word, spoken back to Him, to perform it in power, and you will see the might of your God demonstrated and manifest right before your eyes.

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HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL

- by Andrew Strom

"Practical steps that will revolutionize your Christian walk"

For many years now I have studied the accounts of past Revivals and Revivalists. This is what I am known for - writing and speaking on the subject of 'Revival'. But when you study this topic, one of the things you see very quickly is that we in the church today are living well below the level of Christianity that should be considered 'normal'. (-Even a lot of "Spirit-filled" believers today). When you see what kind of Gospel was preached and what kind of Christian life was lived in the Revival days of old, you start to hunger for that kind of Christianity again. And you start to see that there is a kind-of "Revived" life that is very attainable for us all today - but so few are walking in it - or are even told that it exists.

In many ways, what I am talking about is the 'Normal' Christian life. It is nothing else but the "new creation" life found in Romans chapters 6 - 8. There is nothing "amazing" about it at all. Yet it is so far above the kind of Christianity that we have been led to expect, that many think it "unattainable". How very sad - because it is the free gift of God to us all.

Is it possible to walk before God in a constant state of being 'clean' before Him - and knowing it? Is it possible to walk with a totally pure heart and clean conscience as our "normal" state - every day? Is it possible to live in true victory over sin - at a practical level? Is it possible to have the strongholds of sin and pride in our fallen nature so dealt-with that they hardly bother us at all?

The answer to these questions is 'Yes'. And one of the key things that I want this website to be about, is how to come into this kind of Christianity - how to literally have a "personal Revival".

THE STARTING PLACE - "REPENTANCE"

As all Scripture and Revival history shows - a true Revival begins with "Deep Repentance". And in our personal lives, it so often begins with making a "list" - literally - of ANY sin or compromise or "cloud" that is in our life - and confessing those sins to God with real sorrow and repentance. Any person who cannot make a 'LIST' like that - and spend time confessing their sins before God (-And forsaking them!) - is not really serious about becoming 'Revived'. This is the first place to start.

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!

MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

RECENT BOOK-

REVIVAL HYMN -Very powerful

5000 YOUTH SHOCKED -Paul Washer

RAVENHILL! Life-changing

HARVEST! Very moving

SEE MORE VIDEOS

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07) - Andrew Strom

"THRIVE IN THIS CRISIS" (-Oct 08) - Andrew Strom

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE

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THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

TWO SECRETS OF REVIVAL

WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL

"TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH"

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)
- Andrew Strom

"THE TRUE GOSPEL - HAVE WE EVER HEARD IT?"
- Andrew Strom

"DEEP DEALINGS (My Testimony)"
- Andrew Strom

"THE THUNDERING SONG"

"PRAY ALONG WITH AGONIZING PRAYER"
- Listen & Pray!

"THE COMPROMISE SONG"

"STREET REVIVAL IS COMING!"
- Andrew Strom

"THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD"
- Andrew Strom

"OUTSPOKEN!"
-Andrew Strom.

"HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

In fact, please stop reading this right now. Please find a piece of paper and write down a List of every sin or 'doubtful' thing in your life. Ask God to "shine His light" into your heart and show you everything that you need to repent of. Then simply get alone with Him and go through that List - repenting of each thing one by one - deeply confessing and forsaking them before the Lord.

I believe a lot of people will have a "Personal Revival" just through doing that! -In fact, I know of many people who have literally been 'revived' through this simple process. So please - DO IT NOW! This first step is so important that I do not believe there is any point reading further until you have gone through it.

THEN - "WALKING" IN IT

Now, after you have been through this Repentance process, what you are left with is a CLEAN CONSCIENCE. [-This is assuming that you have already been through the other basic steps found in Romans 6 - 8. ie. WATER-BAPTISM (-a "death" to the old life) and also RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (-without which we do not have the 'POWER' to walk in a truly 'Revived' state). Please see my other articles for more on these two steps if you need to].

Assuming that you have these basic things in place, and that you have now REPENTED DEEPLY by confessing your sins to God one by one, you should now sense a RENEWED COMMUNION with God through having a totally CLEAN CONSCIENCE before Him. Is that what you are sensing?

The Bible speaks many times of having a conscience that is "sprinkled clean" by God. -And what a precious thing that is! In fact, it is fair to say that the Christian life consists of- (1) Getting a clean conscience, and (2) Keeping it clean! -It is pretty much as simple as that!

So how do you "walk" in a 'Revived' state before God? -Simply by walking in a way that KEEPS YOUR CONSCIENCE CLEAN. That is what Romans 8 is all about! -That is what 1 John 3 is all about! -Keeping your heart PURE before God. -Getting a clean conscience and WALKING IN IT - by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Below I have compiled a number of testimonies from readers - telling about their experience of this continual "clean" state before God - and how it happened. Remember - this is a "GIFT" from God - and to experience it we MUST have His Spirit. The testimonies are below:

JASON WRITES:
As a word of encouragement, I have been screaming the message of deliverance from sin, freedom from bondage, and slavery to righteousness from Romans 5-8 for about the last five years.

The most common response is a list of reasons (actually, justifications) of why these verses simply CANNOT mean what they seem to mean. Another response is that simple "mystified" look - as when one cannot quite process what they have just been told. Still another sad response is that of sheer anger.

Nevertheless, "He is able to save to the uttermost." The Book of Revelation declares that He has "freed us from our sins by His blood." In yet another place we are told that we "died to sins that we might live for righteousness."

MARY BELLE WRITES:
I just read your word, "My Experience of a CLEAN HEART", and it is a word that the Body of Christ must hear. If we only lived out from Romans 6, our lives would be revolutionized. We are not living the "normal Christian life" because we don't believe that it is obtainable except through struggle and trying to do our best.

Most of the believers in Christ have never walked or lived

PERSONAL REVIVAL"
- Andrew Strom

"REPENTANCE IN KANSAS CITY"
- Andrew Strom

"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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according to what the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished on the Cross for us... We have lived the "sub-normal life" and believed it to be the truth. The lie of satan must be exposed and the Church of the Living God come into the complete fullness of who she really is.

TERRY WRITES:
I think your article is exactly right! In fact this has been a normal life for me. Whenever conviction arises I do something about it and return to that place of rest and freedom from sin. I don't think there is any other kind of Christianity, unless a person is willing to live under conviction of sin and not do anything about it.

LINDA WRITES:
Many of these truths aren't taught in a lot of churches... Not death to self, not the crucified life, and as you know - that's where it all starts. Many don't know who they are in Christ Jesus, have no idea we are Clean, Justified, released from our old nature to take on His nature.

JEFF WRITES:
The fact that so few experience this does not mean we should change the Gospel, so willfully sinning people can feel better about their relationship with God - so they can feel better than God wants them to. But I think we also need to give them the tools so they can live in Romans 8.

I attended an evangelical seminary for a year, hearing over and over about imputed righteousness, and almost nothing about actual, overcoming righteousness, and seeing hardly any.

In "Are You Walking in Romans 8?" you preached that we must have a pure white robe to be normal Christians and to enter heaven. Isn't this what Jesus said in Revelation 3? But how many U.S. 'Christians' have heard this preached? No wonder the knee-jerk reaction that some will have when the Biblical standard for going to heaven is finally taught.

Jesus' heart is grieved, and He wants us to speak out the truth, even if this offends some people and makes them uncomfortable. Smith Wigglesworth said, ~"I want to make people either mad or glad." We must teach what Jesus requires, as well as how people can live in Romans 8; otherwise, millions who think they are Christians will be doomed.

I think the most radical difference between overcoming-you and the undercoming majority is your statement: "God gave me a true 'fear of the Lord' from the start, and a deep repentance where I literally went right through my life and repented of everything I could find that was not godly."

This happened to me, also, over 30 years ago.... I had a healthy fear of the Lord. If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, how can the church make right decisions about many things if they don't even have the beginning of wisdom. Satan has taken the fear of the Lord from the American church, and the 'church' is mostly not really Jesus' going-to-heaven church.

We will see the prophesied revival which will just be a group of people who are living as true going-to-heaven Christians. Then the world will know.

That's my opinion. I would love to share more, regarding what will help the church truly overcome, including how God told me I was in danger of going to hell when I was willfully lusting, and how He told me to live in the kingdom with my whole heart, not just my head, which I've found is a huge key to overcoming sin.

The heart is much more than a pump. It's the deepest center of our emotions. Andrew, you talk a lot about having a pure heart. I believe that Jesus means this literally. He says we are

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not to look at a woman with lust in our heart, and that we need to do whatever we need to in order to not do this and be able to go to heaven. He says we are to forgive everyone from our hearts, otherwise the tormentors have a right to mess with us. Jesus says we are to love God with our whole heart, not just our heads, or even with part of our heart. Why do lovers say, "I love you from the bottom of my heart?" Why does the Bible speak of the heart about 1,000 times?

I think one of the biggest keys you¹ve learned is to keep your heart pure, not just your head. But most Americans don¹t understand this concept. Most pastors don't understand this, yet it's the first part of the greatest commandment.

The 'church' must repent, and we need to speak what the Holy Spirit is putting on our hearts to speak. Then we will be one, not just a few of us, but many. It will be so awesome!!! We will see it if we don¹t give up.

JAEL WRITES:
I, and many others walk in what I call 'righteousness conciousness' daily. As for my walk, I keep in communion with my Heavenly Father at all times, making corrections and receiving forgiveness as necessary, but staying in His presence always. He shows me where to correct, where to re-examine myself, when I need to repent in order to stay in this blessed state. This should not come as a major upset to anyone. Isn't this how Christianity is supposed to be? As far as I can see, this is the only way to live... the only way I'd ever WANT to live. We are new creations... as it says in another translation..."we are a new species of being, that never existed before." Humans with God inside. Hallelujah!! I say we should live in the light, as children of the light.

TENNEY WRITES:
I loved your essay on walking in cleanness. I too experience a daily walk with the Lord wherein I do not find myself having to repent all the time. Some things are SETTLED! I was delighted to hear your story, because I agree, there should be more of this easy wonderful walk with God.

KATRINA WRITES:
At one time in my life I was an alcoholic, drug-addicted prostitute. I was arrested and in jail when I made a complete and total surrender to the Lord. He put me in Romans, Chapters 5-8 for about 3 months continuous study and prayer. When I left that jail at the end of six months I was a set free captive! Today, six years later, I walk as a new creation that Jesus Christ has made me! I serve as housemother/counselor in a women's ministry for ladies coming out of addiction and sin and turning to the Lord for that victory. I agree with everything that you have "preached"! After all, "whom the Son sets free, is free indeed!"

BRAD WRITES:
Years ago after a wonderful meeting with the Lord in prayer one night my faith was ignited and my wife would say I went from a 1 to a 10 overnight in my relationship with God. I often shared my faith with other believers who were constantly contending with my new faith. One day I was reading thru Romans because of some contention about the Holy Spirit. I knelt down to talk to God and He spoke to me and asked me "What do you see?" and I said I see that I don't have to sin any more, and He said to me "That's what I wanted you to see". Our Baptism into His death and raised into His new life should not be contaminated with unbelief or arguments of "I can't stop sinning, it's too hard". These are lies that are contrary to the truth. I never knew before that moment that I was freed from sin through Baptism (Romans ch 6). That lack of truth in my life was a source of great struggles and self condemnation for years.

JUDY WRITES:
Andrew, Perhaps as well you can post chapter by chapter the

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Watchman Nee book, The Normal Christian Life on here... I am finding that I must read more than once this book and I also believe that this sinless life as explained in this book and also in the book of Romans is something that must be by revelation, not just teaching. It must be "got" as it is so very deep. Add to that your sermons, and other perhaps teachings by those whom you have also mentioned as preachers of this sinless life and hopefully the readers will be able to appropriate the truths by revelation.

CANDITA WRITES:
I finally found someone who believes as I do! I sat at my computer and cried. I'm not a weirdo after all! I don't believe any Christian should live a yoyo life (up and down). Another thing that I'm not hearing in the preaching of the Gospel, is Maintenance - How to Maintain the Salvation that you receive.... nobody tells you HOW to maintain what Jesus has given you.

GEORGE WRITES:
Dear Andrew, [You wrote:] "Normal" Christianity is this: Walking before God with a totally clean conscience and a pure heart - as our 'normal' state before Him. -Utterly clean. No STRIVING or "TRYING to be good". This is clearly what the New Testament describes as normal. - Literally walking before God with "no consciousness of present sin".

Yes, absolutely. That is what we are doing. And if something "pops up", we take a good look at it (being "transparent" is our goal) and deal with it. If there is indeed something there, then repentance and taking authority over it are the order of the day... and we keep on walking! Is this preached today? Sadly not.

ANDREW AGAIN:
I hope through these testimonies you can get a sense of how simple - yet how vital - this "clean conscience" state is for Christians. It really is the 'Normal Christian Life'! It is simply Romans Chapters 5 - 8, and I do not believe that any lesser state is acceptable at all. -In fact, it is totally unacceptable for any believer.

I am truly hoping that this article will give you some practical insights about how to come into this state in your own life. That is what it is all about. -First 'GETTING' a clean conscience - then 'WALKING' in it! Quite a simple concept - and utterly scriptural. But remember - we must have the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives before we can walk in this. -It is only by HIS strength and leading that it is possible.

I am currently writing a book on how to have a "Personal Revival" - and it should be finished soon. But in the meantime, we have placed a number of audio sermons on the right-hand side of our website relating to this (- REVIVALSCHOOL.com). Some actually experience a "Personal Revival" through listening to these - which I truly thank God for. -The most helpful ones to download are probably "How to Experience Personal Revival" and also "Are you Walking in Romans 8?" But others such as "Repentance in Kansas City" or even "Outspoken!" can be helpful also. Most of the audio up there is designed to take you deeper into revival.

Below is one of the most recent testimonies about this:

CHRISTOPH WRITES:
I'm from Germany (18 y.o) and it's just a few months ago I visited your page for the first time. I think one of the first sermons I listened to was about Romans 8 ... In the beginning I could not imagine that this kind of Christianity you preached exists at all. But I thought about it again and again and now I'm so thankful... I now live in a state where there is no sin in my life that rules over me. I am so full of life now, because I realized what this life Jesus promised is all about.

I am so happy that there is nothing that controls me except my Lord and God Jesus and I started fighting for this truth in

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my youth group. Yesterday I preached a sermon about hell and Romans 8 in front of about 50 people. Some were really touched by the Spirit, others just said I am crazy and that this kind of Christian life without all this fleshly stuff is not possible. I said one part of the gospel is to get free from this bondage of sin. Some got mad and said the gospel is just love and has nothing really to do with our sins. So I hope I will be able to start this in our country because we are so weak that I often prayed: "God, send revival or take me home."

And believe me, the first time I made a decision for Christ was about 2 years ago, but somehow I am not sure that I got saved at that time. There was so much sin and worldly stuff in my life that I'm convinced I was just some kind of "almost Christian".

My church is a pentecostal church with everything except prayer meetings. So I just want to thank you that I am now living in a state that I think is what you call a revival state. I know God did this and I did nothing for it...

ANDREW AGAIN:
As I said, it may be best to start with the two sermons - "HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL REVIVAL" and "ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?" You can download these (free) from the right-hand side of- http://www.revivalschool.com

I pray that we all truly and deeply experience "Personal Revival", my friends.

God bless you all,

Andrew Strom.

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"RE-THINKING THE POPE??"

by Andrew Strom

Published April 13, 2005

In the great outpouring of grief and eulogy that have accompanied the death of the Pope, there is something that disturbs me greatly. I hate to always be the one to "rain on the parade", but there are some pretty basic issues that I believe we need to look at here.

There is no doubt that the last pope was a man of very great accomplishments. He broke through many barriers and was truly one of the most effective leaders the Catholic Church has had in modern times. I don't think we can question that.

But what I would like to question is the organization that he was heading, and the 'gospel' that he represented. It truly disturbs me when I hear of Evangelical leaders praising his overall message and even calling him a 'great evangelist' or a 'great Christian leader'. Is the Reformation null and void, then? Shall we simply fold up our tents and go back to Rome?

"HOW TO HAVE A "PERSONAL" REVIVAL"

WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION -

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THE PASSION - A Challenge to the Church

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"TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH"

"SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION" (-Nov 07)

There is something very disturbing in the reaction that has come from these quarters - including the 'prophets', the Pentecostals and the "Protestants" (so-called). It makes me very uneasy.

Much has been made of the estimated 100 million Catholics who have now been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is certainly worth rejoicing over. But what of the other 900 million who are locked inside a system that preaches no "new birth" and no conversion - but rather salvation by works, rituals and the 'sacraments' of the church? Is such a "gospel" acceptable?

Is it acceptable to 'sprinkle' little babies and then tell them they are "saved" so long as they go to Mass and go to 'confession' and receive the other 'sacraments'? Is it acceptable to pray to Mary (the 'Queen of Heaven') or to the saints, or to ivory statues? Is it acceptable to call a man 'Holy Father'? Is it acceptable to forbid ministers from marrying, thus bringing about a deluge of sexual abuse and scandal? Is any part of the way the Catholic system is set up actually acceptable at all? Does any of it have even the slightest resemblance to the New Testament?

The fundamentals of Catholicism have not changed since Luther's day. The last pope altered little or none of these fundamentals. They have not changed since the Dark Ages. And they make up a system that is sending millions upon millions of people to an eternal Hell. They simply offer NO SALVATION WHATSOEVER. But what they do offer is a "counterfeit" version of salvation - that keeps millions in chains of darkness.

Go and visit Latin America sometime, and see the dark superstition that often passes for Catholicism in those countries. Watch as they parade their statues through the streets for the crowds to bow down to. This is no "Christianity" at all. And it holds MILLIONS in its sway.

We need to remember that when elected Pope in 1978, Karol Wojtyla dedicated his papacy to Mary and had words of devotion to her embroidered on his papal robes. In his 1994 autobiography he said: "During the Second World War, while I was employed as a factory worker, I came to be attracted to Marian devotion.... Mary is the new Eve, placed by God in relation to Christ, the new Adam." John Paul II venerated Mary on every occasion, private and public. It was his custom to pray the Rosary before an image of Mary on the first Saturday of every month. He continually exalted Mary in his sermons. We are told that on his trip to Latin America in 1996 he "ended every speech by exalting Mary" (Christianity Today, April 8, 1996, p. 94).

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- Andrew Strom

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I knew an intercessor in New Zealand who was an ex-Catholic. She was one of the most anti-Catholic people that I knew. Why? Because she spent over 20 years of her life brought up in that system - diligently seeking God. Going to Mass, saying the 'Rosary', going to confession and so-on. And she was in complete spiritual DARKNESS unitl she came out and embraced the true gospel. If she was still in there she would probably be UNSAVED STILL.

I am sorry to have to be the one to point out all of this. But why is it that the current crop of leaders seem so willing to give up 500 years of Reformation truth in order to be "politically-correct" and find "unity" with the Catholic system? I received the following email last week, which helps bring all of this into focus:

(From an Ex-catholic priest):

When a man bows before an idol of ivory, begging for salvation, and you tell him it cannot answer - is this hate?

When someone's little girl...must tell her thoughts, her emotions and temptations to an unmarried priest in the confession box, and you tell her she need only confess to Jesus - is this hate?

When a poor grieving widow pays from her meagre substance for Masses for her dead husband, desperately hoping to end his pain in purgatory, and you tell her there is no purgatory - is this hate?

When one billion souls, for whom Christ died, trust a well-fed pontiff dressed in gold and fine linen to give them the keys to Heaven, and you tell them they need no one but Jesus - is this hate?

When Jesus, God's gift of love to all mankind, pointed his finger at the Pharisees and called them so many snakes - was this hate?

When the Apostle Paul stood on Mars Hill and dared tell the philosophers of pagan mystery religion that they were too superstitious - was this hate?

NO!

To free a man from Satan's chains, you must first tell him he is a prisoner. You must convince him that he is lost and without hope... There are those who call [evangelical] literature "hate literature." But they do not know the true meaning of hate.

True hatred hides the gospel in beautiful words that upset no one, and therefore bring no conviction of sin. True hatred stands in selfish silence as hell's population grows.

[-Source: 'Battle Cry', May-June 1993].

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Ride, Ride, Ride, Win, Win, Win

Beverly Juelsgaard-Fischer

2008 -10 -18

Revelation and Strategies for the U.S. Election

I do not believe in dividing the U.S., but I believe that the enemy's first plan is to divide and conquer, and that that is what is intended through this election. I believe that this election is a pre-cursor of what is coming, and that it is intended as a test for us, as the Body of Christ, and that it is intended and allowed by the Lord, so that we will hone our weaponry, our discernment, and our wisdom in knowing the times and the seasons before us now and in the days ahead. I believe that it is a time of preparation and training for the days ahead. So I say to you, as a member of the Body of Christ, that it is so important that we pass the test this time, that we learn whatever needs to be learned, for if we fail this lesson that is before us, as the Body of Christ and as the United States of America, that what is before us now will seem paltry or small to what is coming. For if we fail, what is coming will be even worse than what we are now seeing and going through. Without passing this test, we will have to go through this same type of thing again and again, until we learn the lesson of repenting, prayer, fasting, and humility, or of wanting God's way more desperately than our own way. We need to be willing to go through whatever we have to go through to get what God wants out of us, or to clean us out, so that we can finish this race and pass this test. For without passing, we lose much; for this is a major test for the U.S. and the Body of Christ. This is preparation for the anti-christ.

Whenever I realize that I am in the midst of a test, **I pray that God will give me whatever I need to pass the test the first time, that I have the overcoming spirit, the strength from God, and whatever else I need, to endure it to the end and PASS IT / WIN;** because I don't want to go through it again, due to my own hard-headedness or hard-heartedness; because the next time and the time after, the test will continue to get harder and harder every time. If I don't pass it, it is because I haven't repented and given in to whatever God is trying to teach me through it. It is the same for you. (Ever thought about why you seem to go through the same trial and tribulation so many times??? This is why: You didn't pass the test that you needed to pass the time before, so that you could learn the survival skills to become what God wants you to become.)…So I would recommend that you pray along those lines now, so that **we, as the Body of Christ, are in unity to pass this test that is before the Body of Christ and America now.** (Isn't it interesting that we are called the "United States of America" and that there is nothing about division in our name, yet that is exactly what the enemy wants to do with the United States? He wants to make us the "divided states," for with division we fall. He has already tried this once through the Civil War, or the War Between the States)

For as long as God is with us, who would stand against us; for God will win in the end. Not only are we going through this for preparation, but God is calling the bride forth, and we can't come before Him with a spot or wrinkle. So we have to get rid of our own hard-headedness to want His way, and our own hard-heartedness, in declaring His Word over all the earth; for there are none of us with a pure heart. Jesus is the only one that I know that is totally pure at this time.

We are called by God to pray for our leaders and our governments (which includes those who are

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trying to become a part of it), and we need to do it and stop playing around the mulberry tree, thinking that it is someone else's job, that we don't have the tools or the right equipment to do it, when all the tools and the equipment are right before us in the Word of God and in God; if you seek Him, and get out of His way, and quit whining and complaining, about what is going on and do something about it. Pray like you have never prayed before, declare and call forth the truth and righteousness of God for this nation, for the body of Christ, and for its people. **GOD HAS CREATED US TO WORK WITH HIM AND FOR HIM AS A BOND-SLAVE, NOT AS SOMEONE WHO THINKS THAT THEY ARE IN CONTROL.**

I know, that as a representative democracy, that the U.S. represents to others a type of government that many can only dream that they would have for their country. As a representative government, it means that the person who is in the office of President represents us, because we, the people have "voted" him / her into office; which means that the person that I vote for should represent what I believe in and what God believes in, or I should not vote for them, for we will be held accountable for it in the end. Because God does not believe in abortion or in same sex marriage, neither do I. There are other issues within the election itself, but I believe, that as the body of Christ, that these are the two key issues that we need to cast our eyes on to discern who we should vote for; because abortion itself is a life or death issue, and **GOD REPRESENTS LIFE / HIS CHOICE, NOT OUR CHOICE**. We need to choose not to be a part of death / murder / abortion (it is still death, any way you look at it) of your own or someone else's child that God has created for a time and a season, just as He has created each of us. The issue of same sex marriage deals with the sanctity of marriage of one man in holy union with one woman, which is again why we were created different from each other. Therefore, do not allow a spirit of perversion nor compromise to enter into your thoughts to think that same-sex marriage, nor the belief of same-sex marriage is okay. It is not okay in God's eyes, nor will it ever be. God loves the people; not what they do, nor what they believe.

There are **STRONG SPIRITS OF PERVERSION, COMPROMISE, AND DECEIT THAT ARE TRYING TO COVER THE U.S. AT THIS TIME**, that we cannot allow, nor should we invite into ourselves or this country, because we "believe" that someone will "save" this or that. **THERE IS NOT A CANDIDATE THAT IS "our savior"**. WE, the body of Christ, need to remember that. Jesus is the only Savior that you and I should know, and **JESUS WILL ALWAYS BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US FROM ANYTHING OR ANYONE.** Therefore, **GOD IS WHO WE NEED TO SEEK IN ALL OF THIS,** for the enemy would have us believe that we should believe in "man", which is a lie from the pits of hell.

I have said all of this to share with you the vision and words that I received yesterday and today from the Lord concerning the election before us now.

Yesterday, while driving, I heard the Lord say, "I've won." I replied back, "Yes, Lord, I know you have won, but what do you mean by what you are saying?" Then the election that we are currently preparing for came into my thoughts.

The Lord brought back to my remembrance Gideon and his 300, Deborah (I believe that Sarah Palin is a type of Deborah and that John McCain (Warrior) is a type of Barak for her, just as in the Bible Deborah & Barak were a team from the Lord), and several other victories that were won by the Lord. This was despite what it looked like on the outside to the Israelites at the time. God overcame the enemy, even when it looked like there wasn't any hope. **It reinforced to me that God was and is bigger than all the things that we see going on, and I felt like the Lord was offering**

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encouragement to me and others.

This morning, as I was driving, I looked up and I saw the Lord on His white horse, with His army around Him, up on a hill overlooking the whole situation and all that it entailed. As I was watching, the Lord and His army began to move down the hill quickly, hooves thundering; and it seemed as if the ground was shaking around me. Warriors were screaming the battle cry, and the Lord, with his staff and sword raised, was in the lead, **BREAKING THE WAY.** Tongues were rolling out of me at that point, and then the **SHOUT OF THE LORD or the BREAKER CAME FORTH**. The next thing I knew, I was **SHOUTING AND DECLARING, "RIDE, RIDE, RIDE, WIN, WIN, WIN."**

So I called two friends, and shared the vision and what the Lord had said through me of **RIDE, RIDE, RIDE, WIN, WIN, WIN**. Both times that I shared it, the Lord came all over me again, and it was as if I was right there in the midst of it all, on a horse riding with the army of the Lord, sword raised, battle cry coming forth; but I was also on the sidelines shouting (like a cheerleader) and declaring, **"RIDE, RIDE, RIDE, WIN, WIN, WIN."** This happened two more times as I shared it with others. So I feel like as a nation we in unity are to declare the statement below.

Therefore, I call forth in the Name of Jesus, all of those who God is calling forth at this time and this hour to stand in the gap for the United States of America and the body of Christ. I impart to you the STRENGTH and the COURAGE TO STAND AND FIGHT, THE HOPE OF VICTORY IN THE LORD, AND THE AUTHORITY TO DECLARE:

"WE WELCOME THE ARMY OF THE LORD TO RIDE, RIDE, RIDE OVER AND INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO FIGHT ON OUR BEHALF. WE DECLARE THAT THE LORD WILL WIN, WIN, WIN THE BATTLE OF THE ELECTION IN THE U.S., AND THE STRATEGIES AND PURPOSES OF THE ENEMY WILL BE DEFEATED, AND OUR HEARTS WILL BE TURNED TO THE LORD AND HIS PURPOSES FOR US. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN."

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Signs In The Clouds
Andy Sanders

What you are about to read was not a vision or a dream, or my wild imagination. This actually happened right before my own eyes over the truck and the church I was parked at. To the best of my knowledge no one else saw this but me. Of course, I believe that I was the only one outside on the property at the time.

I was praying in the truck a few weeks ago on a warm day with the sun roof open. As I looked up in the natural ,I saw the clouds take shape to the word "RAN." I instantly got the phrase in my heart that said, "Elijah became anointed and ran past the chariots to get to the latter rain." There is an increase of anointing coming on this earth that will force believers to go further, last longer, and accomplish more than in times past. This is an anointing in supernatural ability. A realm of sudden explosions in the Spirit.

> ***1 Kings 18:45-46, "****Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. The power of the LORD came upon Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel."*

I prayed and pondered this for a while and then opened my eyes and instantly the clouds formed into the image of the Lord riding on a horse, with the sword lifted high in His right hand. He also had armor on. I got the phrase "Attack forward."

This is the first time I have ever seen any image of the Lord with armor on. I thought about if there is any reference whatsoever in the Bible about the Lord being in armor and I realized that the Lord is the Lord of Hosts. This means that He is the Military Captain of all.

This too is aggressive. It is "assignment living". In terms of sportsmanship it is a lifestyle of the offensive and no longer defensive. For too long we have been on the defensive. Look at this election. What could have happened if the Body of Christ was on the offensive with politics and our country, things would be a lot different. The Lord is asking HIS body to "attack forward." It is time to target our spiritual enemies and attach them in and by the Spirit. This does not mean to physically attack your fleshly enemy. It means attacking the enemy that is holding you back by hitting them right where it counts. This can only be done by warring and winning the battle in the Spirit first. This life style is "assignment living." Living with an important and very targeted assignment. With this type of focus there is no time for time-wasting.

> *Rev 19: 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

I then closed my eyes for a while and looked up through the sunroof one last time, only to my amazement to see the clouds directly over me formed into a very detailed human spinal vertebra set. A complete set from neck to tailbone. I was instantly reminded of the word I got back in Erie Pa on 9-11-08 about the economy and what is happening right now as well as some prophetic words for 2009. One word from the Lord was that He is popping the body of Christ back into place. He is literally placing the church back in order like a chiropractor by snapping it back into place. Have you ever had a back crimp when you woke up in the morning? Notice that if you popped your back just right it relieved all the tension? This is the same concept. God is popping the spinal cord of the body of Christ back into alignment for 2009. Get ready for some good adjustments. Few Believers ever reach their true calling in life. Be the passionate ones and align yourself with HIS perfect will for your life.

Andy

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Time To Blow Your Shofar

Nancy Powell

Click Here or on the Picture to hear the Shofar as played by Ueli Surbeck.
[This is an mp3 lasting 1 minute 14 seconds or just over 1MB as a download.]

> *Zechariah 9:14-15 NKJV Then the Lord will be seen over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord God will blow the trumpet, And go with whirlwinds from the south. The Lord of hosts will defend them; They shall devour and subdue with slingstones. They shall drink and roar as if with wine;*

10/16/2008 8:58:46 AM
I looked at the picture just now and I heard the LORD say this to me for you:

"YOU WANT TO BLOW THE SHOFAR? I HEAR YOUR HEART AND I KNOW WHAT YOU LONG FOR AND I, YOU FATHER, AM TELLING YOU **NOW IS THE TIME TO BLOW YOUR SHOFAR**. AFRICA WILL NOT BE THE ONLY NATION TO SEE REVIVAL THE WAY IT WAS ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO BE, AMERICA, FRANCE, PORTUGAL, BRAZIL GREAT BRITAN, RUSSIA AND MANY OTHERS WILL FOLLOW. BLOW YOUR SHOFAR FOR NOW IS THE TIME TO WAKE THE CHURCH.

AND ARISE FOR THE TIME OF THE LORD. STAND ON YOUR FEET ALL THOSE WHO CAN'T STAND FOR I COMMAND THAT YOU WALK AND FOLLOW THE LORD. SING ALL THOSE WHO ARE MUTE AND KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD. SING THE SONGS OF PRAISE. I AM THE LORD AND I WILL COME TO BRING FORTH MY KINGDOM, MY GLORY AND MY AWESOME POWER. BLOW YOUR SHOFAR AND KNOW THAT I AM BRINGING AND RAISING MY ARMY GET READY FOR THE TIME OF THE LORD! PREPARE FOR BATTLE. WHEN WE BLOW THE SHOFAR WE DO SO THE WAY ARMIES YELL AS THEY RUN INTO BATTLE."

I know what the LORD means in that last part but I can't convey all that was coming. GOD IS SO GOOD! Praise him for the encouraging words.

Nancy Powell
nancy.powell@gmail.com

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THE PASSION

A Challenge to the CHURCH

by Andrew Strom

22 Feb 2004

I had the privilege of seeing an advance screening of the 'Passion' movie at a local cinema last night. It is strange, because yesterday I started getting emails from Christians claiming that the film is a kind of 'Catholic conspiracy' and vowing that they would never see it. What hogwash! GO SEE THE MOVIE!!

Sure, there is the odd moment when there is a slight 'Catholic' tinge to things, but it is almost nothing. This film is a majestic and powerful viewing experience that will cause a lot of people to truly consider the claims of Jesus - perhaps for the first time.

Could it cause backslidden believers to turn back to Christ? Yes, I believe so. Could it cause a whole lot of people to start checking out their local churches? Yes, I can certainly see that happening. It is a very powerful film, and I believe God desires to use it greatly.

But here is the crux of the problem. The churches simply cannot carry the 'weight' of this movie. By and large, they represent a different "Jesus" altogether from the one that we see torn and battered in the gospel accounts. A church that has bent over backwards to make its services a "Seeker-friendly" mix of warm homilies and entertaining slickness, has nothing to say to a generation that is seeking the true Jesus of the Bible.

It is just like what happened after 9-11. The people came flooding into the churches seeking a faith that could bear the 'weight' of the momentous events unfolding around them. And they found we had erected a plastic imitation - a shallow, lightweight "Jesus" - complete with ambient 'muzak' and mindless appeals for money. A comfortable Western counterfeit of the real thing. They did not stay for long. And why should things be any different this time?

Every day we hear reports of big churches buying up large blocks of tickets and urging their people to use this film as an "outreach opportunity". I believe it is an 'inreach opportunity'. -A chance for us to look into the face of Christ and find that our shallow pretense of Christianity bears no relation to the real thing whatsoever.

We are nothing like Him - we really aren't.

How incongruous that we plan to use this blood-spattered, shatteringly 'real' movie to invite people back to our comfortable, plush-seated crematoriums - there to be wooed by our utterly "unreal" Sunday pantomimes. I don't think they will be staying long this time either.

As I said, today's Western church simply cannot bear the 'weight' of this movie. It stops our mouths, just as it stops theirs. Our "Jesus" comes out looking like a cheap used-car salesman - for that is what we have made him. We invented him to perfectly fit our 'Laodicean' lifestyle. And so we sit in our lovely buildings with

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our Laodicean lifestyle. And so we sit in our lovely buildings with our lovely music and our lovely smiles, wondering why the world cannot get as excited as we do by this plastic Jesus of ours. Meantime, all the earth sighs and groans for the real thing.

Tell me, church, don't you think it is possible that God intends this movie to challenge us,just as it challenges the unbelievers? Will we be deaf to the voice of God, or will we allow him to begin to dismantle this plastic edifice that we have built - this prison of our own making that prevents us from representing the real Jesus as He really is?

Surely the time has come for another 'Great Reformation' in the church. May this movie be just one of many "shakings" that is sent to remove the blinders from our eyes.

God bless you all
-Andrew Strom.

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HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

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The Key Is Intercession

Julie Meyer

Transcribed from a video at http://juliemeyer.com

[Describing a vision:]
And I saw him give it to us specifically.
I saw that as he flipped this key on a balance like a scale that has two balances on it. When he tipped and flipped this key, the balances tipped. The Key is Intercession.

And I know that we are in a season going into the election. And I just want to prophesy what's on his heart. Because intercession will tip the scales for his ticket.

For the Lord says of 2008, they will not be bought with a price. For the elections of 2008, they will not be won out of popularity. But this and this alone will tip the scales.

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, Then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive and I will heal. Because I'm giving you the key. I'm giving you the key. And the key is a cry for mercy. The key is cry for mercy.

Because in America the cry for change has been louder than the cry for mercy. And when the cry for mercy is louder than the cry for change it will tip the scales for my ticket.

For the Lord says, the Lord says, everybody has had their eye on the number one spot. Everybody has had their eye on the number one spot.

But I've had my eye on number two. Because this year it's about number two.
This year it's about number two. It's about number two. It's about number two. And I've set a Deborah into place and if you will pray it will tip the scales for my ticket. And I tell you that Ohio, it will be Ohio, Ohio, Ohio. Ohio will be given the key to tip the scales for justice for America.

The intercessors for Ohio, they must rise, they must rise, they must rise, they must rise. For Ohio will be given the Golden Key to tip the scales for justice.

For this is a year, this is a year just as in the natural. This is a year for the Deborahs to arise. Arise. Arise. Arise. Arise. Arise.

It's the year for the Deborahs to awake and prophesy and awake and prophesy. It's a year for the Deborahs to awake, to awake.

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"TO the YOUTH of AMERICA"

by Andrew Strom

I write this as a musician and a radical. Christian Youth of America, your generation is dying, and I need to ask if you are EXTREME enough to provide the answers. We know there never was anyone more "Extreme" than Jesus. But what about you?

Christian Youth, I need to ask why you sit in the padded pews of your fathers while all around the darkness takes your cities and your friends.

I need to ask why you worship the great god of Entertainment, just like your parents before you - but a bit 'louder' - and think that is "radical".

I need to ask why you think it is "extreme" to slam and mosh, when all the while the devil owns your streets, and fat Record Companies line their pockets with your cash.

I need to know why you have allowed the system to make you a slave - a "consumer" - a clone. I need to know why you can be sucked into buying $150 shoes and $200 sunglasses - while 30,000 children die of starvation every day.

I need to know why you will not cry out to the rich money-preachers "REPENT". I need to know why you still enjoy it when they tickle your ears and never speak of Hell. I need to know why you accept it when their gospel sounds like a toothpaste commercial - all slick and no substance. Well-dressed drones with plastic smiles, selling you the latest line in snake-oil. WHEN WILL YOU WEEP?

I look at your piercings and your tattoos and your hair and I still have to tell you: You are nowhere near EXTREME ENOUGH. The outward appearance will not do.

The time is coming when an army of young warriors will hit the streets - fearless and bold beyond anything we have ever seen. Even death itself will hold no fear. They will cry to the church "REPENT" and to the comfortable, "SELL what you have and GIVE TO THE POOR". They will be hated and despised by religious authorities. They will openly decry the TV preachers and eschew the watered-down pap that passes for 'gospel' in our day. They will reject sin and love people - even the homeless and the very least. Utterly pure of heart, they will befriend the prostitutes and the gang bangers. They will look and sound just like Jesus.

With great daring and ruthless aggression, this army will make war on the devil and the darkness. Their music will be hymns of battle. Their sound will ROAR over the crowd. Truly these shall be the 'Sons of Thunder'.

Christian Youth of America, can you not hear the call of God in this hour? All heaven awaits the moment when you will arise and ACT on behalf of your generation.

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WHY I LEFT THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT

DEREK PRINCE ON DECEPTION - Controverial!

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LOVE PEOPLE PLEASE!

MY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART

15-YEAR OLD HAS A 'PERSONAL REVIVAL'

DISASTERS WHERE - IN THE USA??

JESUS AS 'LOVER'??

RE-THINKING THE POPE??

THE 5 KEYS TO DISCERNMENT

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To the Christian Youth of America I say:

It is time to get "EXTREME".

God bless you all.
-Andrew Strom.

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TODAY'S "UNSAVED" CHURCH

by Andrew Strom

It is an interesting fact that Charles Finney spent his entire ministry preaching to professing Christians. And yet he was called the greatest 'evangelist'! What he was doing was evangelizing the church people - because he found that most of them were not living in a state of true salvation at all. The church was 'unsaved'! Thus his first calling was to the believers of his day - to see them converted. -Just like Jesus and the apostles were called first to the Jews - the 'believers' of their time. Finney found himself preaching piercing salvation messages his whole life in church buildings, Bible Colleges and so-on. The "Christians" must be saved. Actually, you see this pattern in most Revivals down the centuries. In many cases, what Revival was, was the church coming into true SALVATION for the first time. They THOUGHT they were saved before, but they had been under a delusion. When the 'Revivalist' arrived and preached to them, suddenly they saw that they were undone and in a lost state, and multitudes were converted. Revival almost always begins with the church.

I believe it is no different today, especially in America where church attendance is very high (-around 40 percent) - the highest percentage in the world. Everyone agrees that there is a lot of 'nominal' Christianity and 'social' Christianity going on - as well as a huge number of people who attend churches where they are told they are 'saved' when clearly they are not.

It is difficult not to come to the conclusion that most of these churches are like "holding pens" for the damned - telling people that they are 'OK', when in reality they are headed for destruction. Personally, I find this very hard to take. What will God do to the preachers who are lulling the flock to sleep in this way? And when will men be found who will dare to tell the "Christians" that many are not 'saved' at all - but still in their sins? -Such is the role of the true prophets of God. Such is the role of the coming "John the Baptists".

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Of course, Finney was hated and despised by church men for saying such things. How DARE he preach in such a way that assumed that many 'fine church members' were unsaved? How offensive and ill- mannered! But Finney had such a passion and a burden to REACH THE 'CHRISTIANS' with the gospel. -And this was exactly what God had called him to do.

Today we see exactly the same thing in the West as Finney saw in his day. We see a church that is very largely UNSAVED. A truly "saved" church (in the New Testament sense) behaves and looks and sounds utterly different to what we have today.

Even in Pentecostal/Charismatic circles we often find many "previously-saved-but-no-longer-walking-in-it" believers. Friends, this is not a state of 'salvation'. The Bible is very clear that only those who CONTINUE in New Testament Christianity and who "overcome" will be saved. These people are lost. You are either walking as a 'new creature' in love with Christ or you are not. If you are not walking in it then do not assume you are "saved" - no matter what some preacher tells you. It is all or nothing with God. The Bible tells us to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling". I would be very surprised if more than a quarter of the West's so-called "Spirit-filled" believers are actually walking with a clean heart before God. What on earth do they think will happen to them on Judgement Day?

Added to this, we have millions upon millions of 'mainline' believers who literally NEVER get the opportunity to find out about "FULL" salvation. -The Holy Spirit is never made real to them, and many have never been fully BAPTIZED in water, either.

Now, we have already discussed elsewhere how people became Christians in the Bible. We know that there were THREE THINGS that always needed to happen when someone wanted to become a Christian in the New Testament:

1. Repentance
2. Water Baptism
3. Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

-Every time, these were the three things that happened STRAIGHT AWAY. (-See Acts 2:37-41, Acts 8:12-20, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 19:1-6, Acts 22:16, Heb 6:1-2, Mk 16:16-18, etc.)

As I have said before, the doctrine of "Asking Jesus into your heart" does not exist in the Bible, and personally I would come very close to calling it a lie from the pit of hell, because it falsely assures people that they are "saved" just because they have 'prayed a little prayer'. It is very dishonest and totally unscriptural. So we know that a basic "New Testament Christian" is someone who has:

1. Repented
2. Been Baptized (immersed) in water, and
3. Been filled with the Holy Spirit (-accompanied by 'tongues', as far as we can tell in Scripture).

So how on earth do we reach all these vast millions who are being duped with this half-Christianity of "Asking Jesus into your heart" - but never hear the full gospel? What on earth can be done to get this message through to them?

This is a burden that is very much on my heart. And I am convinced that only the coming "John-the-Baptist" ministries will

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have the anointing to break through the walls of 'Religion' to reach these people with the truth. We are talking about millions upon millions of precious souls here. And they are people who DO BELIEVE in God. But they have been lied-to, and the real truth has been denied them.

I am convinced that the coming harvest will BEGIN IN THE CHURCH. It will begin with converting the "CHRISTIANS". -This has always been God's order. "First in Jerusalem, then in Judea...."

I am deeply burdened for the church in the West. Let the new "Charles Finneys" arise. Let the trumpet sound go forth. The message of PIERCING REPENTANCE must be heard in the land once again. And the idol of "Mammon" must surely be one of it's key targets.

I am convinced that such prophets must arise for Revival to come to the West in these days. "For the word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword." -May this mighty sword be brought to bear on the walls of Religion and false 'assurance' in these days.

IMPORTANT:

-CLICK HERE FOR AN EYE-OPENING STUDY OF HOW PEOPLE BECAME CHRISTIANS IN THE BIBLE.

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Vision Of An Acorn

David Heimbold
St. Augustine Florida USA

I Had A Vision of an Acorn over the Capital

Foreword: This is my testimony. Judge it on it merits. Political names are mentioned. All prophesy is essentially political. This might come as a surprise to many. We are in a Great War between Kingdoms: The kingdom of God and the earthly kingdom of the devil. Battle lines are drawn. The final War is at the door. *I do not know the political views of the Publisher of End Time Prophetic Vision.* This is 'my' testimony and interpretation of the vision.

About a year ago I had a vision of an Acorn cap over the Capital of the United States, over the White House, and then over the entire Belt Way. This mini-vision happened on a conference call with Intercessors in Washington, D.C. We were praying for President Bush and other matters.

When the vision happened I said, " Gee, I just had a vision of a cap of an acorn over the

White House. It looks like the hat of the acorn. It is over the White House, the Capital. It is over the entire Belt Way". Then I said, "It looks like the Dome of the Rock".

Keep in mind this was a year ago. I had never heard of the organization ACORN. At the time of the vision I immediately linked it to the Ramadan celebrations in the White House.

President Bush was so proud that he was the first President of the United States to welcome Allah into America's 'first house', The White House. He bragged about this to the Press.

The Lord had spoken to me in 2005, just weeks before Katrina, "Divide My Land, I Will Divide Your Nation". This prophesy was posted on this web site.

So, I immediately saw the connection to the fact that the spirit of Islam had penetrated this Country through its President and that the President was in 'submission' to this spirit re: Islam means Submission or Surrender. The door to the President's heart was the "two state solution", the dividing of Israel for 'Peace'.

Up unto last week, I had always called acorns, 'egg corns'. When I grew up in Island Heights, New Jersey, we as kids collected 'egg corns' by the hundreds and made 'egg corn' shooters and had great fun shooting the 'egg corns' at each other in our war games.

This is the recollection of my cousin, Tom, from 50 years ago concerning my connection with 'egg corns'.

" One day Dave told me the story of David and Goliath. Maybe he had just learned the story himself. His name is David, too, of course. He had just made himself a sling shot, but not one of those Y shaped ones. This one was just like the one David used to slay Goliath, with four long laces attached at each of the four corners of the patch of leather taken from the belt line of a pair of dungarees. Now David was a peaceful guy so he tried out the weapon using acorns as missiles. Acorns were plentiful in Island Heights but were too light-light to work at all so he had to resort to using nice round stones the way his name sake did. I must say, very seriously, that Dave, with a little practice got to be very good at using the sling. I would say better than anyone I had ever seen using a conventional sling shot."

Amazingly, it wasn't until last week that it was pointed out to me by my wife, Ellen, and Barbara P. that the 'egg corn' in the vision was spelled acorn! (a dyslectic problem!)

The revelation was instant!

ACORN, the corrupted voter fraud organization was going to take over the Presidency and Congress! Alas! it was also connected to Barack Obama, the community organizer, who was the lawyer for ACORN for a time, trained others at ACORN, and gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to ACORN,

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recently, to help his Presidential Campaign.

Of course, Obama had a Muslim father and some learning of the Koran in early school and said, in his autobiography, that he would 'defer to Islam in a conflict'. Then, there is the connection of Obama with his cousin Raila Ordinga, from Kenya who ran for President of Kenya on the platform of **CHANGE**. Ordinga was from East Germany and is a Marxist. Obama ,as a US Senator, went to Kenya and campaigned for Ordinga. Then there is Obama's connection with Black Liberation Theology, based in Marxism, which he learned in his church in Chicago. Most of this is common knowledge; even his voting to deny medical help for babies of botched abortions where the surviving baby is left to die! This messiah impostor from Chicago is a 'Gangster' (the Spirit of the Lord called him this!) from the dark side. His cronies cover for him and he appeals to the masses of ignorant, unregenerate and deceived Christians who want hand outs from the Beast!

Our Covenant Nation is at the cross roads once again. The Lord has heard the prayers of His People and the words of King David ring through the ages!!!

" Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" Saints, listen to these words! " You come to me with the sword, spear and javelin, but I come against you in the Name of the Lord God Almighty, the God of the Armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know there is a God in Israel. And all those who are gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's..." 1 Samuel 45-47

The Goliath of today is Globalism in the suit of Gangsterism in the person of Obama who wants to hand the United States of America over to the devil; this is the word of the Lord, for this hour!!!

Do not be deceived!

President Bush's compromise with Islam was followed by an unending series "natural disasters". Now, to mop up and prop up the economy we have the World Bankers taking over the financial system and a Mobster appealing to the mob.

This three pronged attack on our Covenant Nation has the USA on the brink of destruction. Goliath is defying the Living God and His army of saints scattered around our Country. The Lord is our Banner in this Fight. Selah!

The Victory is the Lords!

Shout it out loud, Saints of the Most High God! The Lord has heard the cries of the saints and He will saves us as we continue to fast and pray and Praise Him for His Faithfulness!

Every vote for Life is a vote for the Lord!

Hallelujah! and Amen!

Post Script: Prophets of the Living God are not bound by "Political Correctness". This 'law' of the masses has muzzled the 50,000 Pastors in this Country who do not want their tax deferment taken away. They have chosen money over God and you know that scripture, "You cannot serve two masters; either God or money". I pray you haven't sold out, too!

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"WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY"

by Andrew Strom.

June 29, 2006

Despite the thousands in our megachurches today, soaking up the warm entertainment offered to them every week, I want to put it to you that we have lost Christianity. Despite the Christian books now found in every Walmart, and the "crossover" of Christian artists into the mainstream, and our Christian mega-stores and CD's and DVD's and Study-Bibles, I want to put it to you that we have lost Christianity. Despite our lavish Cathedrals in the suburbs ('Charismatic or not) with their pastel hues and comfortable pews, their projector screens and $30,000 sound systems, I want to put it to you that we have utterly lost Christianity.

We left it behind somewhere when we shifted our churches from the inner city into the "comfortable" suburbs. We left it behind when we stopped welcoming the bums off the street into our meetings and started welcoming only the "respectable" people. We left it behind when we stopped preaching "take up your cross" and turned the gospel into a success formula - 'Seven Steps to your Best Life Now.'

Somewhere in our comfortable suburban streetscape with its manicured lawns we lost the real thing. Somehow in our concern for "property values" and a better 'dental plan' we left it behind. But that is not the worst part of it. The worst part is that we don't know how to get it back again. Or perhaps we don't really WANT to get it back again. The cost simply doesn't bear thinking about, does it? And so, as we drive around in our nice shiny cars with our groovy plastic toys, and attend "church" as we know it twice a week for 2 hours;- As we live a life that is about as unlike Jesus as you can get, a life of comfort and coddling undreamt of by billions around the world;- a lifestyle in the top 10% of the earth today (-in debt up to our eyeballs all the while) - the fact is that we don't really CARE that we have lost original Christianity, do we? We are too busy, man. Don't bother us with that kind of talk.

It will all be OK, the preacher tells us. We will all make it to heaven in the end. We are all "decent" people here. We have "prayed the little prayer". We have 'given our heart to the Lord'.

Oh yes. We will all make it, won't we? We are all good suburban church-going folks here.

But what is this? What is that thundering voice I hear? "DEPART FROM ME." 'But LORD... But LORD....'

"I said - 'DEPART FROM ME'. Don't call me Lord. You never truly lived like I was your Lord and you know it. For I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in; naked, and you did not clothe me; sick and in prison, and you did not visit me...."

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What is the essence of true Christianity that we have lost, my friends? It is simply described by James as follows- "Pure religion and undefiled is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (Ja 1:27). Amen.

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"WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL"

by Andrew Strom

July 4, 2006

There is no tragedy in the world worse than this - the church losing the gospel. We could have a hundred terrorist attacks, or earthquakes, or hurricanes, and it would still not outweigh the tragedy of this one thing - WE HAVE LOST THE GOSPEL. Nothing can compare to this disaster - nothing. For when you lose the gospel, you lose salvation. People are actually no longer becoming saved. (Remember, Paul said that the gospel is the "POWER OF GOD unto salvation"). And when people are no longer truly becoming saved, you also lose the church. For no true gospel = no true church.

People will tell me that I am being too "drastic". Well, I want to say to you that I am not being drastic enough. In fact, if I were to shout through 1000 megaphones directly into your ears, it would not be possible for me to overemphasize just how disastrous and awful and horrific it is that our backslidden Western church today has - to all intents and purposes - lost its gospel. And in doing so it has lost its very reason for being.

We tell everybody that all they need to do is say a little rote prayer accepting Jesus as their "personal savior". Tell me, where is such a thing in Scripture? Does such a thing even come close to existing? Can you recall even ONE person doing such a thing to become a Christian in the Bible? Did any of the Apostles in Acts ever say to someone, "Just repeat this little prayer after me"? Or "Quietly slip up your hand - no need for anyone to see"? Can you remember ANYONE in Scripture doing anything like that?

No, you can't. That is because nobody ever did. It is all a modern fabrication - a complete invention. -This is no salvation at all. We act like people can safely forget about CONVICTION of sin and DEEP REPENTANCE and WATER-BAPTISM and getting FILLED with the Holy Spirit. -Just "optional extras", eh? But look at 'Acts' and tell me - was there ever such a thing as real Christianity with- out these things? And what about getting a CLEAN CONSCIENCE (-washed in the blood) and KEEPING IT CLEAN? Are we ever told how to walk in THAT today?? -To actually "walk" in the washing of the blood of Jesus? To be clean, to be utterly "Clean", to be EVERY WHIT CLEAN?? (-The most important thing in the world). Where is this in our gospel? Where is the transformed life? Where is the "FREEDOM" from sin?

We have lost it all. Our people very rarely repent. They often go for years without baptism (-meaning, according to Romans 6, that their "old man" is not yet dead - and so they simply cannot live a new life in Christ). Read Romans 6 sometime and ask yourself this question- "If I have not been baptized, then is my old life "buried" with Christ or not? Is my 'old man' dead or not?" -This is why the apostles always baptized people RIGHT AWAY.

And then we often fail to get people 'FILLED' with the Spirit

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WE'VE LOST CHRISTIANITY

WE'VE LOST THE GOSPEL

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"ARE YOU WALKING IN ROMANS 8?"
- Andrew Strom

"THUNDERING IN NASHVILLE"
- Andrew Strom

straight away too - let alone "walking" in the Spirit. Tell me, how are we supposed to have 'HOLINESS' if we have not even been filled with the "HOLY" Spirit? Why do you think that the apostles always made sure that people became Spirit-filled RIGHT AWAY??

Most of us do not even have "Day One" Christianity as it was in the Bible. We have lost the gospel and we don't even know it. We have invented a gospel of 'convenience', a gospel without the cross, a gospel without holiness or the power to live a Christian life. -A gospel that shows no-one how to get a CLEAN CONSCIENCE or how to WALK IN IT. I want to say to you that such a gospel is NO GOSPEL AT ALL. And we should be ashamed of ourselves for preaching such a travesty.

No wonder today's church is lukewarm! The gospel is the building block upon which everything else is built. Without it we have nothing - literally nothing. It affects all that we do and all that we are. To lose it is simply the worst disaster imaginable. So how on earth can we get it back?

Well, we have spoken about "Revival" many times on this site. But what a lot of people don't realize is that the 'RETURN OF THE GOSPEL' was often the key that brought about the Great Awakenings - the GOSPEL being restored and preached in power. The longest-lasting Revivals always involved the "RETURN OF THE GOSPEL". That is precisely what was happening with the preaching of Wesley, Finney, Whitefield, etc. And it has to happen again today!

So "Revival" to me is far more than just a fleeting visitation. It is to be the long-lasting restoration of the true gospel - and thus the true church also. If we want true Christianity restored today, we must first see THE GOSPEL restored. It is the most important key to it all. O God, send such a Revival! BRING BACK THE GOSPEL and those who will PREACH IT! O God, we cry out to you in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

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HOW CAN WE TELL FALSE REVIVALS FROM TRUE REVIVALS? WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

(READ THE BOOK REVIEWS)

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What Is God Saying About The Economy

Cindy Jacobs

Many of you know that God spoke to me last January to prepare intercession for the economy. (Click here to learn about the **Day of Prayer for the World's Economies**).

Three months ago God spoke to me a second word, the full scope of which I did not understand at the time, even as a prophet. He told me, "There will be no more business as usual." I now know that He meant no more business as usual—worldwide! (Click here to learn about **No More Business as Usual**).

On October 28 – 30, 2008 we will be meeting with world-class intercessors to put together a strategy to present to you in New York City on **October 31 and November 1, 2008**. So many have called or written us regarding what they have been hearing from the Lord about the crucial hour in history in which we are living, that we felt led to cancel the strict conference-style approach we had planned for these two days. For this reason we are asking that you set aside time to join us for these two days in New York City to hear the strategic path God is showing us. Please register today so that we can hold a seat for you at the briefing and strategic teaching sessions. **Click here to register.**

In addition, intercessors that pray regularly for the stock market have cried out to God to stabilize the markets long enough for us to begin to develop strategies for the global Body of Christ. Mona Tuma, the chief intercessor at **Cornerstone Financial Services**, called this week to inform us that her group of intercessors has already began to pray the points outlined in the prayer guide prepared for the **Day of Prayer for the World's Economies**. In response, they immediately saw the tanking market do a 400-point reversal during their time of intercession. For this reason, we are asking that this prayer guide be distributed and used by prayer groups across the face of the earth even before October 29, 2008.

Many have asked us if they could join us on-site in New York City for the time of prayer to shift the economy from a bull and bear market to the Lion's market. Because space is limited in the places at which we will be interceding, we've grappled with what to do with these many requests. Here is what we came up with that we know we can all do together:

Let's gather at the statue of the bull for corporate prayer at 12:30pm, on Wednesday, October 29, 2008. The Charging Bull statue is a form of guerilla art that was illegally placed on the streets of New York City after the 1987 stock market crash. People from all around the world have come to revere this statue at the official symbol of New York City as "the financial capital of the world". To many, it represents the power of Wall Street and the American people, and many believe they will receive "good luck" in their finances, particularly in the stock market, by rubbing the bull. However, I strongly believe that this statue is a "Trojan Horse" among us!

For a more in-depth understanding of how we will be praying on this day, please read the prayer guide prepared for the **Day of Prayer for the World's Economies**.

Please make your way to New York City for the **October 31 and November 1, 2008 Convergence**. There are few times in history that so much depends on so few.

Together in battle,

Cindy Jacobs
Generals International
United States Reformation Prayer Network